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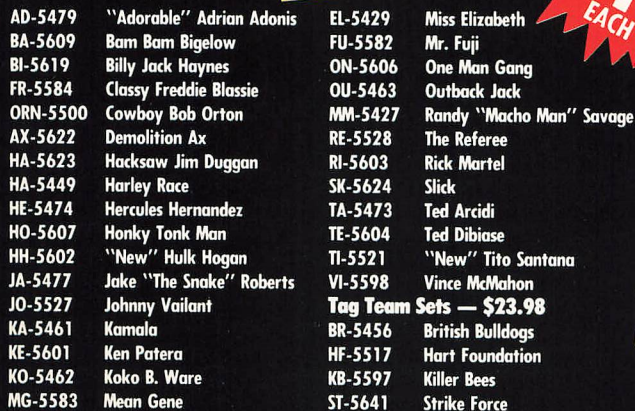
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INSIDE

Wrestling

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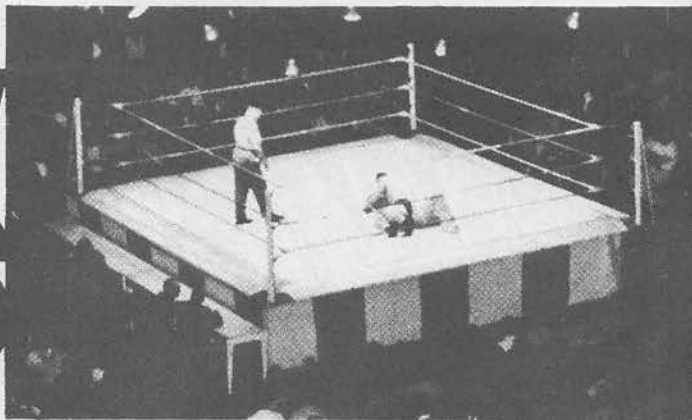
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SEND LETTERS TO:

SINCERELY YOURS

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GET WELL, STING

When I read the cover story in the June 1990 issue ("Tragedy Strikes Sting! How You Can Help Speed His Recovery"), I practically broke down in tears. Sting has been my favorite NWA star for years, and it's terrifying to think that his career is in jeopardy because of his ruptured left patella.

We can't let this happen! I'm a firm believer in the power of positive thinking, and I'm urging fans to send Sting all the letters and cards they can. With all our support, I know he can make it back at 100 percent capability.

I'm looking forward to the day when Sting can step up on the apron, look at Ric Flair across the ring, and then proceed to give that blond bum the beating he deserves. I hope a lot of other fans feel the same way.

TERRY BOHN
Hammond, IN

I'm writing about a letter written by Pete Amoruso in the June 1990 issue. He said that Sting deserved what he got when The Four Horsemen attacked him at Clash of the Champions X.

Amoruso doesn't know what he's talking about. The only reason Sting challenged Flair for the title was to keep it in the "family," meaning the Horsemen. And Flair was scared because he knew he was going to lose the belt.

MELISSA MOORER
Newark, DE

I hope that fate hasn't taken away Sting's chance at greatness. Sting's injury reminds me of when Boston Red Sox slugger Tony Conigliaro was beamed in the eye by a fastball in 1967. Although he made several comebacks, Tony was never the same again. He was deprived of his career through no

fault of his own.

Can Sting ever be the same? It won't be long before everyone finds out.

EDWARD ARGENTO
Boston

SHAKIN' ALL OVER

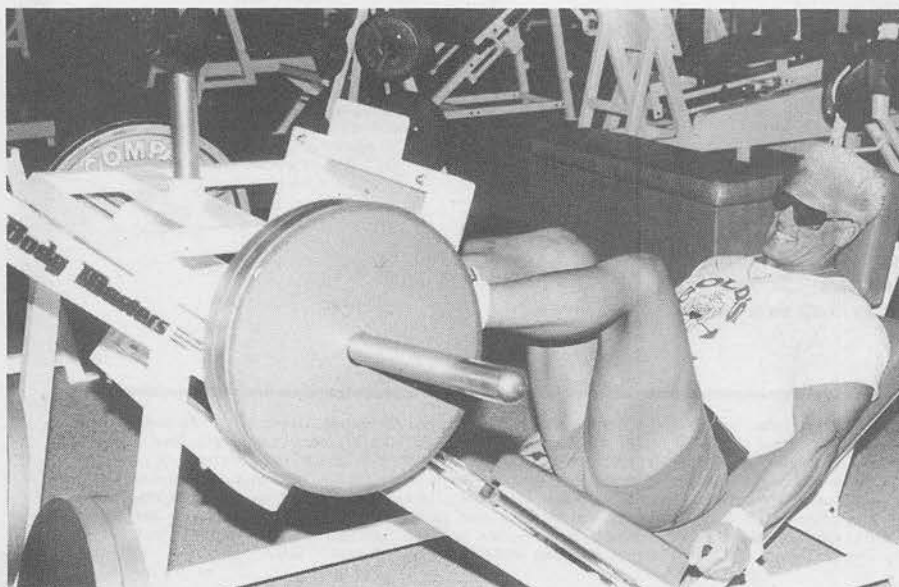
I've been appalled by a lot of things in the WWF during the last few years, but few things have gotten me as mad as Earthquake and his antics. When I



Immediate action must be taken by the WWF to stop Earthquake's postmatch antics, writes reader Jeremy Lansing.

read the article in the June 1990 issue that he had savaged Ron Garvin ("Canadian Earthquake: The WWF Braces For A National Disaster!"), I was angrier than ever.

Can't someone do something about the way this man continually jumps on his fallen opponents? I've seen many fine wrestlers seriously injured because of his "earthquake" leap, and not just preliminary ones—guys like Garvin, Hercules Hernandez, and Hacksaw



Sting's road back has been a difficult one, but he has plenty of support from readers Terry Bohn and Melissa Moorer, not to mention thousands of little "Stingers."

Duggan have all been defeated by this man.

But what I can't take is the way he attacks Dino Bravo's opponents. What business does Earthquake have in Bravo's matches? Why doesn't WWF President Jack Tunney step in and do something?

Let's face it—462 pounds could crush *anybody's* chest. Enough is enough!

JEREMY LANSING
Portland, OR

SENSATIONAL SAITO

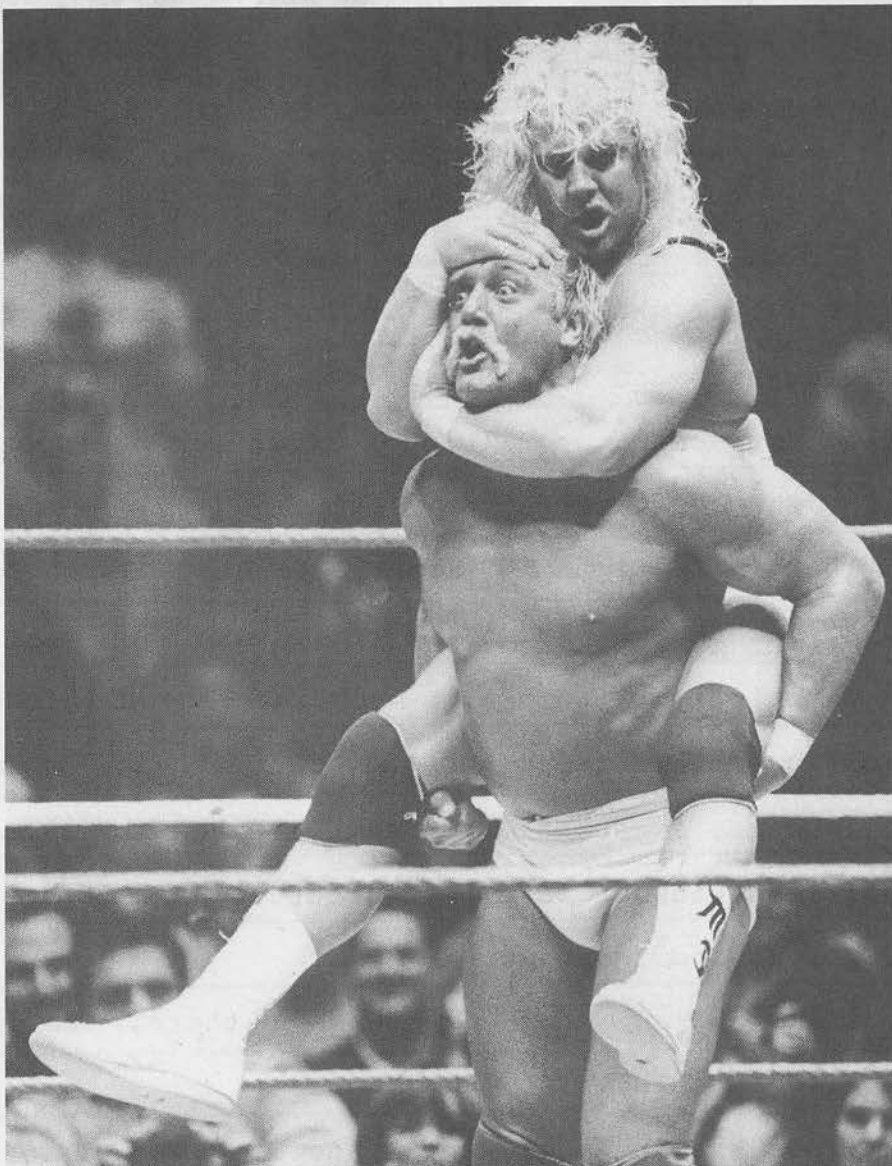
I truly enjoyed your story on Mr. Saito's big AWA World championship victory in the June '90 issue ("Japanese Shocker! Mr. Saito Defeats Larry Zbyszko For The AWA World Title!"). It's clear that Saito wrestled the match of his life. But I must admit that Zbyszko's feeble attempts at explaining away his loss had me laughing out loud. Would it be so hard for this "Living Lummox" to admit that Saito was the better man on that night?



Mr. Saito's AWA title victory over Larry Zbyszko gladdened reader Bill Ziegler, who was upset when Zbyszko won the rematch.

I realize that Zbyszko went on to regain the title from Saito, but, as usual, Larry's victory was pure luck. Now it looks like we'll all have to live with more of Zbyszko's bragging, lying, and cheating. But Saito shouldn't give up until he regains the title. He's the one man who's been able to prove that Zbyszko is the biggest farce in this sport.

BILL ZIEGEL
Latham, NY



Hulk Hogan ended Curt Hennig's drive toward perfection, and that's one of the reasons he's a great wrestler, in reader Mike Facciani's opinion.

EQUAL PAR

I'm writing in response to Bill Lesmith's letter in the June 1990 issue ("Veteran Views"). He said the WWF is a kiddie organization and a joke. He also wrote that Ric Flair would tear Hulk Hogan apart, and that Curt Hennig could probably beat Hogan.

Dream on! The WWF's vast popularity goes far beyond appealing just to kids. I agree that the NWA is great, but in terms of big-name stars, the WWF just can't be touched.

Also, WWF wrestling is on a par with the action anywhere else. Hennig's perfect record was shattered by "Hulkamania," and Hogan even trounced Hennig and Lanny Poffo in handicap bouts. Despite the outcome of WrestleMania VI, Hogan is still the

most formidable wrestler around.

The Ultimate Warrior looks unstoppable now, but I bet Hogan becomes the first three-time WWF champion after their next encounter.

MIKE FACCIANI
Johnstown, PA

I WANT MY NWA

Here is a question being posed by many Phoenix wrestling fans. Where is the NWA? I know that the NWA has promoted cards in other West Coast cities, but never in Arizona to my knowledge. For years, Phoenix fans have had sporadic WWF cards to attend, which is fine, but a little variety would be great.

We aren't asking for Starrcade or
(Continued on page 46)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

No matter what is going on in the life of Roddy Piper—whether he's feuding with Bad News Brown or participating in the Intercontinental title tournament or filming a pilot for a proposed network TV drama along with Jesse Ventura—he's never too big to remember his roots.

That's why guys like Scotty the Body, Bryan Adams, Al Madril, and Billy Jack Haynes had better be alert.

Those of you who aren't much interested in the goings on in the Pacific Northwest probably never even heard of some of those guys. But believe me, Piper has. He remembers how important his early days in the Pacific Northwest were to his career, and he is still very loyal to the promoters and fans.

"When things get out of hand up there," he likes to tell his friends, "I'll be around."

Piper was around recently and it cost Scotty the Body a little bit of money and a whole lot of embarrassment.

Scotty, a well-built, cocky youngster, issued a challenge to the fans: \$100 to anyone who could beat him in an arm-wrestling match. The first fan that answered the challenge looked pretty powerful, but he was dispatched by Scotty with ease. Then, to the sheer delight of the fans and the utter astonishment of Scotty, Piper climbed through the ropes.

Scotty is quite a bit stronger than Piper and probably should have won, but, still in a state of shock, he was no match for the "Rowdy Scot." Piper won the challenge and distributed the money to the fans.

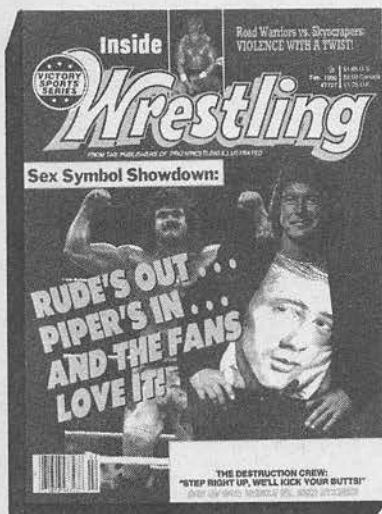
Piper is not planning on leaving the WWF. He merely wanted to deliver a message in the Pacific Northwest. "No matter what I'm doing or where you think I am, I'm always watching. If you don't want to see me, don't do anything that'll make me want to see you."

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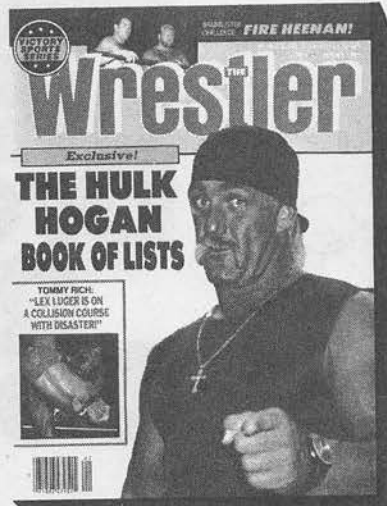
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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

WWF PRESIDENT JACK Tunney's decision to not grant former WWF World champion Hulk Hogan a rematch against current WWF World champion The Ultimate Warrior has been discussed all over the place. Still, a second or third (or 10th or 11th!) opinion never hurt anyone.

When I heard the news, I thought of the rule in boxing that prohibits immediate rematches. The idea, it seems, is to prevent champions from throwing fights to setup a lucrative rematch right away. So, when Mike Tyson lost the heavyweight title to Buster Douglas, there was no chance of a rematch.

Wrestling, however, doesn't have this rule. Rematches are commonplace. It's an accepted part of the sport.

Tunney, of course, made a major blunder by prohibiting a rematch that was absolutely necessary.

"I cannot in clear conscience allow these two men to once again battle each other past the point of exhaustion," Tunney said.

Why not? That's what wrestling is all about! If Hogan doesn't battle to the point of exhaustion against the Warrior, he'll do it against someone else. The same goes for the Warrior.

First of all, it's a shame that we're not getting a rematch for this flimsy reason.

Second of all, it's a shame that the *real* reason we're not getting a rematch right away is so the WWF can keep us begging for one—until WrestleMania VII.

Third of all, if the Warrior wants to wrestle Hogan again—and he does—he should be allowed to. After all, he's the champ.

(Continued on page 50)

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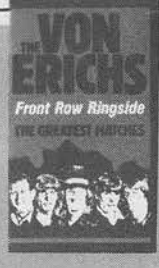


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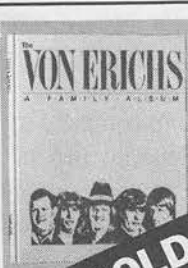


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BACK IN THE May 1990 issue, I spent this column discussing some of professional wrestling's "imponderables."

What are imponderables? Questions you thought would never be answered—or that simply didn't have any answers. In that column, I explained why a wrestler who throws a dropkick and misses gets hurt, but doesn't get hurt when he connects. No, I'm not explaining it again, go dig through your stack of back issues.

But I will answer a few questions that were sent to me in the weeks after that column appeared. Here goes:

From Peter Allen of Espanola, Ontario: "Is a nervehold the same as a sleeperhold? Does it have the same effect?"

This was an easy one. In fact, I explained the sleeperhold in that May 1990 column. But to answer your question, Peter, no, they are not the same. A sleeperhold cuts off blood flow to the brain and causes the victim to reach a level of semiconsciousness. A nervehold places pressure on a particular juncture of crucial nerves, typically in the neck or shoulder, and causes an immobilizing numbness or, depending on the way the hold is applied, intense pain.

From Jason Garcia of Hayward, Wisconsin: "My question is in regard to a wrestler suplexing an opponent. Why does the suplex only hurt the wrestler receiving the suplex, and not the one delivering it when they both hit the mat at the same time?"

This one gets a little more complex, so bear with me. I discussed suplexes in depth with two of today's greatest practitioners of nearly every variation of the move, Rick and Scott Steiner. Their insights were invaluable in helping me fully understand this deceptively simple move.

Okay, let's deal with the standard vertical suplex or, when applied particularly quickly, the snap-suplex. There are, in fact, two main reasons why the wrestler receiving the move is hurt to a greater degree.

First, the recipient isn't aware of precisely when he will hit the mat, so his body impacts with the canvas in a state of unprepared surprise. The deliverer of the suplex does know when the impact is coming, so he can prepare himself for that impact. This is also the reason why a wrestler will sometimes vary the time he holds the victim in the air: compare the speed of a British Bulldog snap-suplex to the longer vertical hold favored by Ric Flair.

Second, there's physics. Somehow it all always seems to come down to physics, doesn't it? Okay, try this: Place your elbow on a table and rest your forearm on the table, with the palm facing up (like you've just lost an arm-wrestling match). Now bring your arm around, keeping the elbow down, and rest your arm—palm-down—on the table (like you've just *won* an arm-wrestling match). As

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

you do this, note how far your hand moves while the area near your elbow remains almost completely immobile.

Same thing in a suplex: The recipient of the suplex moves in a wider arc than the deliverer of the move. Remember, it's all physics: $F = MA$.

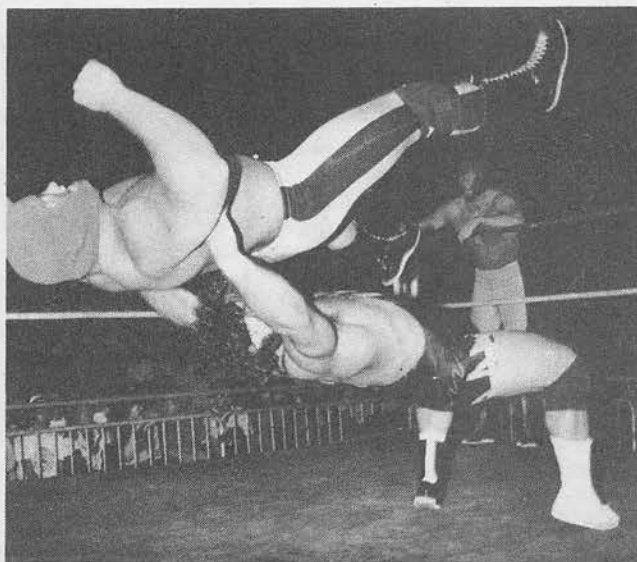
That's force equals mass times acceleration. The *force* of the move equals the *mass* of the person being suplexed (a suplexed fat wrestler hits the mat harder than a suplexed skinny guy)

times the *acceleration* the recipient under-

dergoes (of course, a skinny guy can be suplexed faster than a fat guy, so consider that, too). The acceleration is significant due to the wider arc (and greater speed) over which the recipient's body travels; it also explains why the snap-suplex is more powerful (more *forceful*) than the standard vertical suplex.

And, in the final analysis, the move *does* hurt the person doing it, too!

"Yeah, I'll admit it, it hurts a little bit," Scott Steiner says. "Of course, what you're doing is absorbing a little bit of punishment in order to inflict a greater amount of punishment on your opponent, so you come out ahead in the long run. I guess it's what you might call *productive* pain."



Rick Steiner executes a suplex

"The thing about it is," Scott continued, "if you're in good shape and train yourself properly, you can absorb that bit of pain. And you train your body in a certain way. See my shoulders? Built up, right? Now think about it: When I suplex a guy, and my shoulders hit the mat, these shoulders can absorb the impact tons better than if I *hadn't* spent so much time training and building those muscles."

"Wrestling," Scott said in conclusion, "is a far more subtle sport than most people think. All you have to do is look below the surface." □

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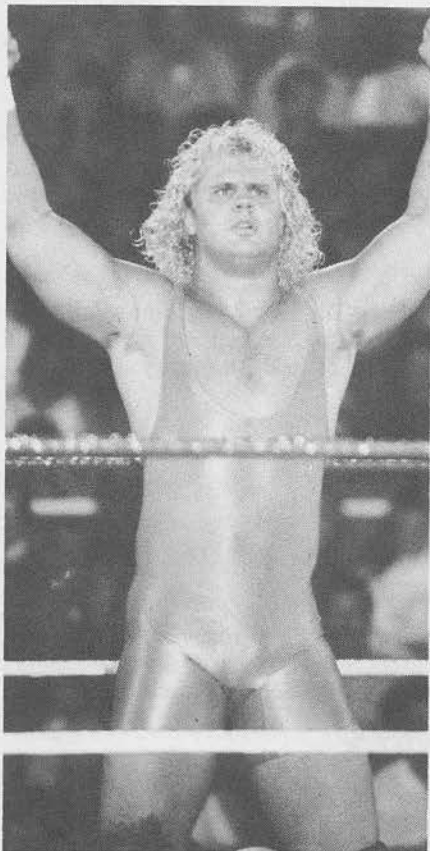
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NAMES MAKING

CURT HENNIG WON an eight-man tournament to become the new WWF Intercontinental champion on April 23 in Austin, Texas. "Mr. Perfect" pinned **Tito Santana** to capture the match and the belt, but the real winner here is **Bobby Heenan**, Hennig's new manager.



CURT HENNIG

No one knew that Hennig and Heenan had even been in contact before the tournament final began. Surprisingly, Hennig came to the ring unaccompanied by **Lanny Poffo**, his usual adviser. Santana got off to a fast start in the match, and worked on Hennig's left leg with a series of holds and slams.

Santana attempted to put a spinning toe-hold on Hennig, but Heenan came out to ringside to distract the Mexican

star. Santana's loss of concentration allowed Hennig to sneak up from behind, catch Santana in a small package, and pin him.

After the match, Hennig announced that Heenan was his new manager. But what will this mean for the former AWA World champion's relationship with Poffo? Hopefully, Hennig will forget about the "Genius," a man who led him absolutely nowhere. In fact, in the weeks before the I-C tourney, Hennig suffered humiliating pinfall losses to **Hulk Hogan**, **The Ultimate Warrior**, and **Brutus Beefcake**. Heenan, as evil as he is, at least is a veteran manager with a proven track record.

The USWA has announced that it will restore the rule that allows titles to change hands on a disqualification. DQ losses will be recorded as "technical losses." The rule had been abandoned after the World Class became the USWA last summer.

"Obviously, we're quite upset with



BOBBY HEENAN

the conduct of many of our wrestlers, in particular **Jerry Lawler**," said USWA President **Max Andrews**. "Too many times, he's gotten himself intentionally disqualified in order to save himself from losing his USWA title. This new rule will make sure that everyone is accountable for his actions from now on."

When Lawler was informed of the rules change, he refused to take it seriously. "What's the difference between



JERRY LAWLER

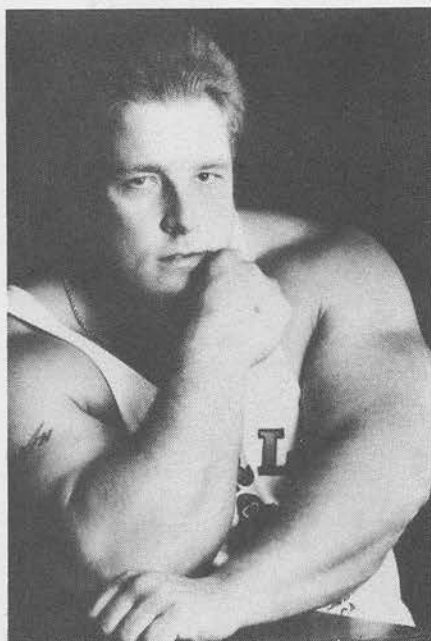
a disqualification and a technical loss?" asked Lawler incredulously. "This doesn't make any sense to me at all. If you ask me, this is just another shoddy attempt by Andrews to help his favorites get my belt, but it's not going to work. I'll remain as dominant as I've always been."

In addition, the CWA championship has undergone a name change. Formerly the CWA heavyweight championship, it is now known as the USWA Southwestern championship. The title currently is held by **Bill Dundee**.

Former SCW champion **David Sammartino** is now wrestling in Japan . . . **Scott "Flash" Norton** has chal-

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...



SCOTT NORTON

lenged PNW champion **Bryan Adams** to an arm-wrestling contest. Norton is the former heavyweight arm-wrestling world champion ... AWA wrestling has premiered on SportsChannel, a national cable television network.

Barry Windham and **Sid Vicious** have joined **The Four Horsemen**, providing the rulebreaking organization with four members for the first time since they threw out **Sting** in February. Windham and Vicious join NWA World champion **Ric Flair** and TV champion **Arn Anderson** in the group. **Ole Anderson** remains manager, while **Woman** will continue to serve in an advisory capacity.

"This is the biggest opportunity of my life," said Vicious, who has made a complete recovery from the punctured right lung that has kept him out of action since last November. "The Horsemen are known for dominating the title scene, and that's what I want to do. And with Barry, Ric, and Arn backing me up, there's no way I'm going to fail. I'm sure that these guys

will do for my career what **Teddy Long** couldn't."

Jonnie Stewart has returned to the AWA ... **Robert Fuller** and **Kendall Windham** won the PWF tag team title from **Brian Knobbs** and **Hurricane Walker** on April 12 in Tampa, Florida ... **Jeff Jarrett** and **Jeff Gaylord** are in the midst of an incredibly violent feud in the CWA. They've attacked each other several times during recent cards.

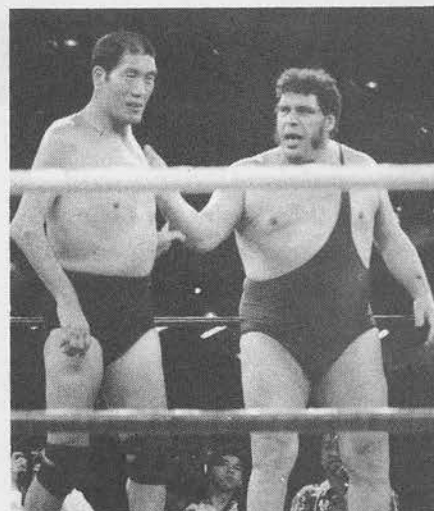
The Undertakers regained the ICW tag team title with a tournament



BAM BAM BIGELOW

final victory over **Eric Sbracchia** and **Phil Apollo** ... **Larry Sharpe** has opened a second **Monster Factory** wrestling training center, in Marion, Ohio. The first Factory, located in New Jersey, has produced such stars as **Bam Bam Bigelow**, **The Soutaker**, and **Sweet Daddy Falcone**.

The WWF held its first-ever com-



BABA & ANDRE

bined card with the New Japan and All-Japan federations on April 13, and more than 50,000 fans filled the Tokyo Dome to see an outstanding night of wrestling action featuring top U.S. and Japanese stars.

Former WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan** pinned **Stan Hansen** to end the bloody, hard-fought main event. Other noteworthy matches saw **Andre the Giant** and **Shohel "Giant" Baba** team up for the first time to defeat WWF World tag team champions **Demolition** in a non-title match; **The Ultimate Warrior** easily beat **Ted DiBiase**; **Genichiro Tenryu** pinned **Randy Savage**; and **Jumbo Tsuruta** and **Haku** teamed to defeat **Rick Martel** and **Curt Hennig**.

Legendary Mexican star **Gory Guerrero** died on April 18 at an El Paso, Texas hospital. The father of current stars **Hector**, **Mando**, and **Chavo Guerrero**, Gory made his professional debut in 1937. He held the Mexican welterweight and middleweight titles, and was Mexican lightweight champion for 17 years. He is also a member of the Mexico City Sports Hall of Fame.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches! □

THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

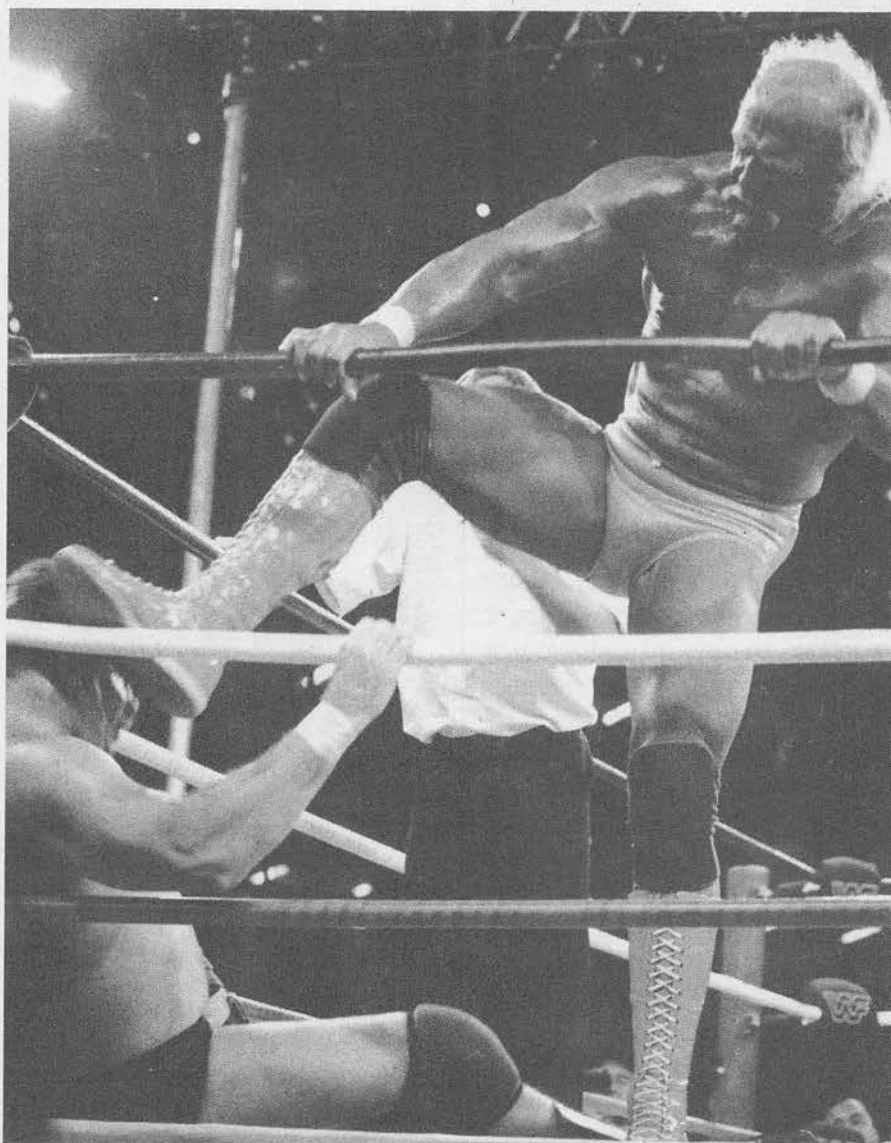
WHEN TERRY GORDY backed out of a recent Tokyo match against Hulk Hogan, the identity of his replacement fired the imaginations of wrestling fans around the world.

After all, this was a historic card, the first one ever co-promoted by New Japan, All-Japan, and the WWF, and the Hogan match was a significant bout. Would the legendary Shohei "Giant" Baba take on the "Hulkster"? Perhaps Genichiro Tenryu, regarded by many as the world's best wrestler, would withdraw from his match against Randy Savage and tackle Hogan? (Much to the delight of fans and media, he didn't, and he pinned Savage in 10:49 of what many felt was the night's best mat action.)

Who would Gordy's replacement be? It turned out to be a promoter's fantasy and Hogan's nightmare.

It turned out to be Stan Hansen.

Stan Hansen vs. Hulk Hogan. Is this a dream match, or what? Hansen, world's leading distributor of pain ... ex-AWA World champion ... ex-breaker of Bruno Sammartino's neck ... arguably the toughest wrestler to ever lace up a pair of boots.



Days after losing the WWF World title, Hulk Hogan went to Japan and wrestled Stan Hansen, one of that country's most loved American wrestlers.

Hogan, without the weight of his title belt, had never wrestled better. But even with his mat game raised a notch or three, Hogan was hardly able to dispose of Hansen with ease. For much of the match, Hansen crushed Hogan the same way his wife Emma

Lou crushes tomatoes for his homemade chili. Both men bled profusely. They slammed each other into a ringside table time and time again; the table, unable to accept the punishment, crumbled.

(Continued on page 52)



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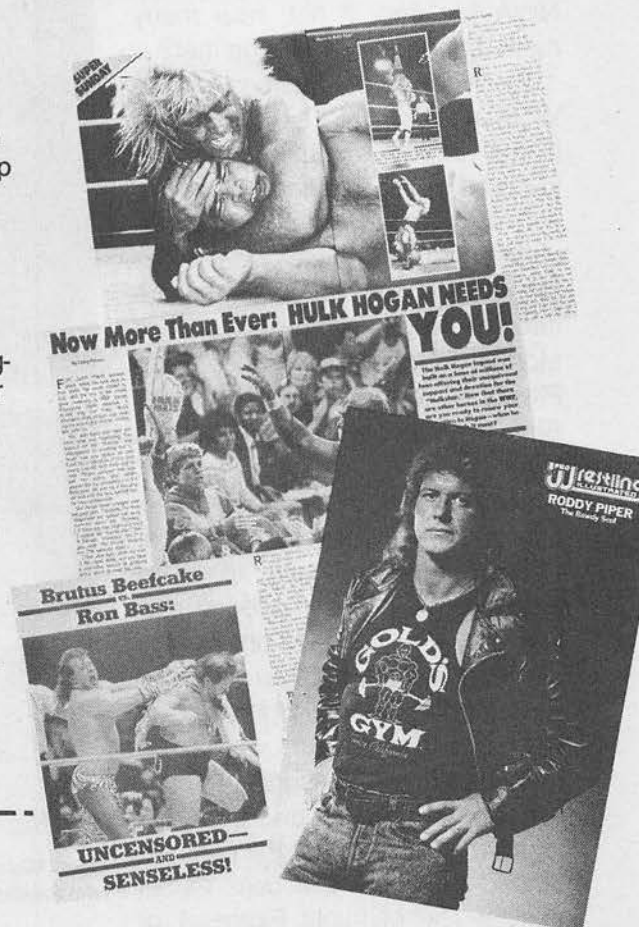
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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

THE NWA RAISED several questions after their first New York-area card in two years rocked New Jersey's Byrne Meadowlands Arena:

1—Will Lex Luger ever win the NWA title and, if not, how many more opportunities will he get?

2—When Ole Anderson swung Woman's shoe at Lex Luger, was it the impact or the odor that knocked the challenger down?

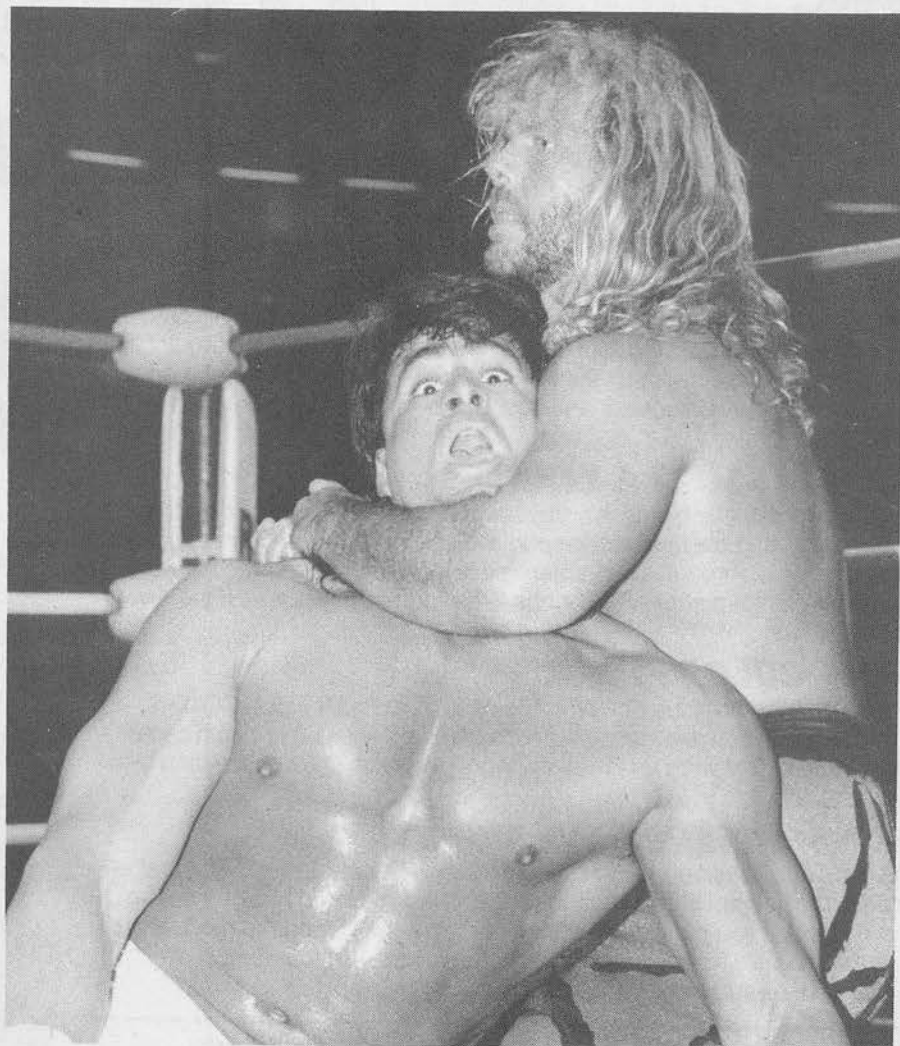
3—How does the verbal abuse suffered by the once-popular "Z-Man" Tom Zenk bode for the future of fellow pretty boys Rick Morton, Robert Gibson, Brian Pillman, Marty Jannetty, and Shawn Michaels (to name but a few)?

Let's start with the third question and work our way backward.

There are two ways to judge the negative crowd response elicited by the introduction of the Zenk-Gibson team (Zenk replaced Rick Morton, whose flight was rerouted). Either the fans were exercising their displeasure at Zenk wrestling for the second time that night (he and Brian Pillman defended their U.S. title belts earlier against The Midnight Express), or they just plain don't like them.

Theory number one is unlikely. Past experience has usually shown if a popular wrestler was forced to battle twice in a night, he could count on a *more* enthusiastic reception than usual, an indication of the crowd applauding his courage and stamina.

"Fans understand the mental and physical preparation that



When Michael Hayes wrestled Tom Zenk at the Meadowlands in New Jersey, it was Hayes who received most of the cheers. Liz Hunter wonders if the fans like Hayes or hate Zenk.

goes into a match," says Steve Williams, "and they know that to wrestle twice in a night, with one match probably against an opponent you haven't prepared for, isn't easy. Even when I was a rulebreaker I could hear a few cheers of respect the times I came out for a second match."

Which leaves us with theory number two, and the fact that the

boos, curses, and catcalls directed at Zenk and Gibson indicated the majority of Meadowlands fans hated their guts.

"An entirely plausible theory," says my colleague Eddie Ellner. "It's about time the pretty boy element in professional wrestling was exposed as the frauds they are. I mean all of them, even the ones

(Continued on page 54)

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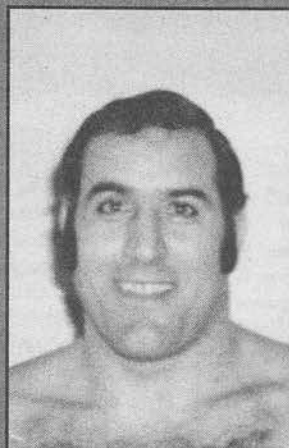
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



RIP HAWK

Known as the "Profile" for his dashing good looks, Hawk was a member of a classic tag team with raw-boned Swede Hanson. Hawk and Hanson became legendary for their incredible brutality as they barnstormed

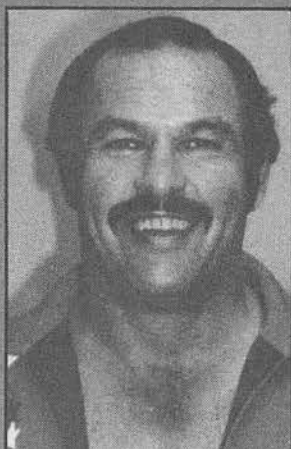
through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Texas. Today, Hawk is retired and living in Hereford, Texas, and has gone into farming. In fact, he grows the corn used to make Texas Microwave Popcorn, a popular snack product.



DOMINIC DeNUCCI

This Italian star is a two-time WWF World tag team champion, having won the belts with Victor Rivera in 1975 and Dino Bravo in 1978. Amazingly, this grizzled veteran continues to wrestle occasionally on inde-

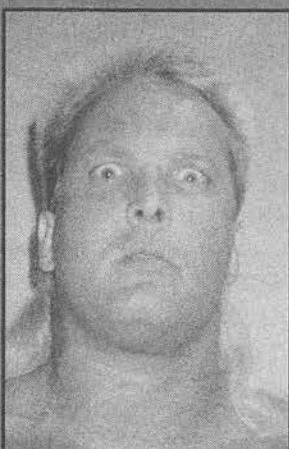
pendent shows. He currently operates a wrestling school in Freedom, Pennsylvania, where he trained Cactus Jack for his ring debut. DeNucci also is involved in promoting independent cards throughout the East Coast.



TOMMY GILBERT

This Memphis legend had a lengthy grappling career, but today he's best known for being the father of popular NWA star "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert. The elder Gilbert is now semiretired and living with his wife, Peggy, in Lex-

ington, Tennessee. Tommy, who had a falling out with Eddie when he was refereeing several years ago, has reconciled with his son. "I knew that couldn't last," he said. "Eddie's too good a kid."



DAN SPIVEY

This former member of The Skyscrapers and The Varsity Club recently completed a tour of Japan, where he dominated all competition. He also plans to wrestle in several independent federations in the United States. "I like Japan

because the competition there is always first-rate," said the 6'8" giant. "Besides, people there appreciate my talents more than they do in the U.S. So why fight it? I'll wrestle in Japan as often as possible."

INSIDE WRESTLING

169

CAPSULE PROFILE

KEVIN VON ERICH is the oldest brother in Texas' legendary Von Erich family (*"It kind of makes me feel more responsible about carrying on family traditions of sportsmanship"*) ... A superb football player while in high school and college (*"I considered a pro career, but wrestling was—and always will be—in my blood"*) ... Made his professional debut in 1978 while still in college, beating Bryan St. John in Dallas ... During his rookie year, won the Texas title and the American championship (*"To be a champion so young—what a thrill!"*) ... Made his first trip outside Texas in late 1979 ... Defeated Dick Murdoch for the Missouri title on November 23, 1979 (*"Talk about a guy who's Texas-tough, that's Murdoch!"*) ... The title earned him several matches against then-NWA World champion Harley Race (*"People seem to forget what a legend Race is, and how much he's given to the sport"*) ... Lost the Missouri title to Ken Patera on April 25, 1980 ... Toured Hawaii and Japan with his brother David (*"We really began to gel as a team right around then"*) ... Returned to Texas and captured the American tag team title (*"What a joy it was wrestling with David; I miss him so much"*) ... 1983 saw the explosion of the Freebird-Von Erich feud (*"Me, Kerry, and David had*

KEVIN VON ERICH

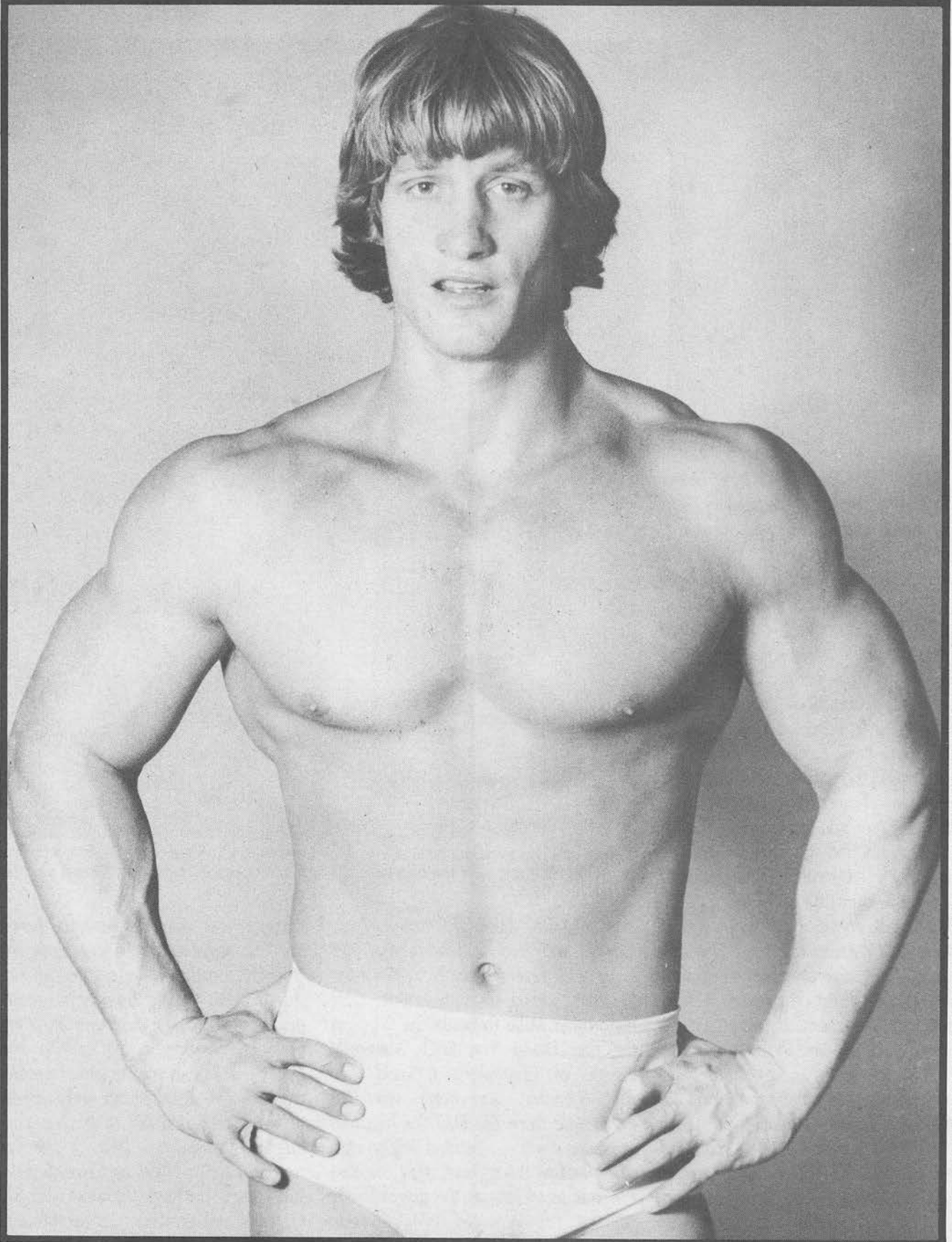


Kevin Von Erich slaps the famous Von Erich clawhold on The Punisher. Kevin has been in and out of the ring over the past several years, but hopes to reestablish himself as a top star in the USWA.

a war with Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts that this sport will never forget") ... On May 6, 1984, joined his father, Fritz, and his brother Mike to battle the 'Birds at the first David Von Erich Memorial Parade of Champions (*"David died that February, and Kerry won the NWA title from Ric Flair for him that amazing day"*) ... Feuded wildly with Chris Adams throughout most of 1984 (*"A war as vicious as the one with the 'Birds'"*) ... Wrestled NWA World champion Ric Flair many times in 1985 (*"A great competitor—what more can you say?"*) ... Feuded with former friend Brian Adias in 1987

(*"That was a war that really bothered me"*) ... Another family tragedy struck when his brother Mike committed suicide in April 1987 (*"Tragedy has made our family stronger than ever"*) ... Experienced ringing in his ears in late 1987, and began splitting his time between active competition and semi-retirement (*"Turned out to be post-concussion syndrome, the result of accumulated football and wrestling injuries"*) ... Currently feuding with Billy Travis and Terrance Garvin throughout the USWA/CWA area (*"The Texas fans have always been my life's blood; whenever they need me, I'll be there for them."*)

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



KEVIN VON ERICH

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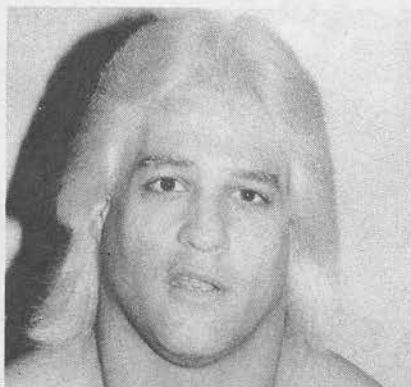
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BATON ROUGE, LA By Sean Fluharty



**JUNKYARD DOG
vs.
BUDDY LANDELL**



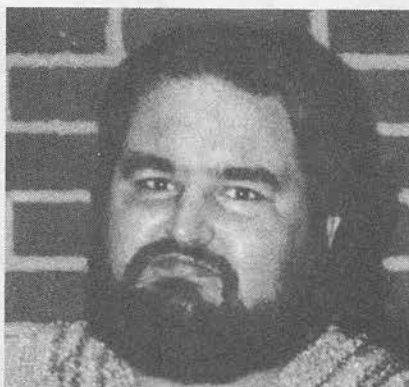
At one point, Junkyard Dog clotheslined Landell, then kept him down on the mat. Landell took control and raked JYD's eyes. When Dog threw Landell into the turnbuckle, the referee got knocked out. While JYD was trying to revive the ref, Gen. Skandor Akbar tried to hit Dog with his cane. JYD ducked and Akbar accidentally hit Landell. After the ref woke up, Dog powerslammed Landell and scored the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Black Olympia beat Kamala by disqualification ... The Fantastics defeated Ken Massy & Dusty Wolfe ... The Ringlords beat Jimmy Valentine & Joey Maggs ... Rockin' Robin pinned Black Diamond ... Sam Houston defeated Johnny Mantell.

CALGARY, ALBERTA By Justin McCartney



**TITO SANTANA
vs.
AKEEM**



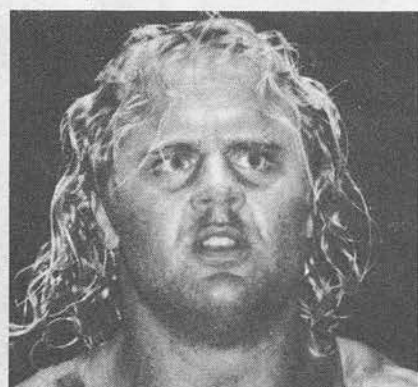
Santana tried to weaken Akeem's arm with a wristlock, but Akeem elbowed his way out and tossed Santana into the corner. Akeem tried for an avalanche, but Santana ducked and dropkicked him to the mat. Santana went for a figure-four leglock, but Akeem kicked him to the arena floor. When Santana vaulted over the top rope with a sunset flip attempt, Akeem sat on his chest and pinned him.

OTHER BOUTS: Steve Lombardi upset Terry Taylor ... Steve DiSalvo defeated Buddy Rose ... Dusty Rhodes beat Randy Savage by countout ... The Bushwhackers beat The Bolsheviks ... Jake Roberts pinned Ted DiBiase.

NEW YORK, NY By Nicholas Flagello



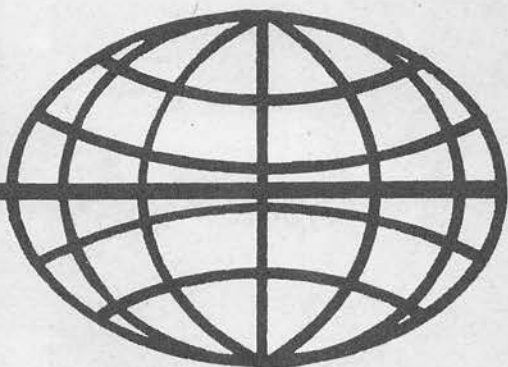
**ULTIMATE WARRIOR
vs.
CURT HENNIG**



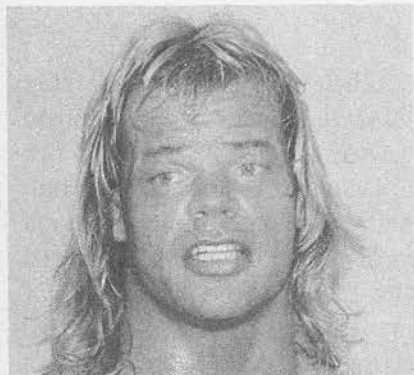
Warrior controlled the first few minutes of the match with power maneuvers. After Warrior missed a big splash off the ropes, the momentum switched to "Mr. Perfect." He controlled the bout by working on Warrior's back, ribs, and neck for about five minutes. When it seemed like Warrior was almost out of it, he began his comeback. He gave Hennig several clotheslines off the ropes, followed up with a gorilla-press and a slam, then got the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Koko B. Ware beat Frenchy Martin ... Earthquake defeated Hacksaw Duggan ... The Orient Express beat Demolition by countout ... Dino Bravo beat Brutus Beefcake by countout ... Tugboat Thomas pinned Pez Whatley ... Hercules beat Black Bart ... Bret Hart drew with Rick Martel.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



CINCINNATI, OH By Chuck Allen



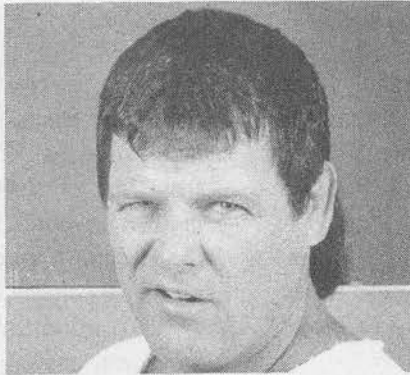
**LEX LUGER
vs.
BRIAN PILLMAN**



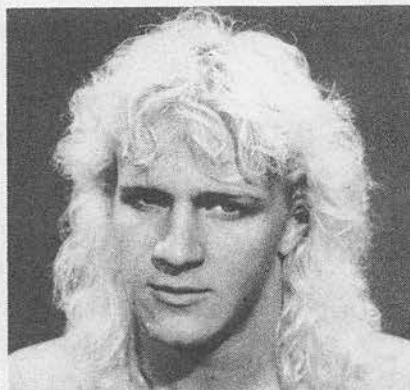
Before the opening bell, U.S. champion Luger offered Pillman his hand in friendship. Pillman reluctantly accepted it. To Pillman's surprise, Luger wrestled the match scientifically. After Pillman caught Luger in a belly-to-back suplex, both men had their shoulders on the mat. Just before the referee made the three-count, Luger lifted his shoulder and Pillman was counted down. After the match, Luger and Pillman embraced in a show of sportsmanship.

OTHER BOUTS: Mike Rotundo pinned Jacko Victory ... Tom Zenk defeated Cactus Jack ... Bobby Eaton drew with Johnny Ace ... The Road Warriors defeated Doom ... Paul Ellering and Teddy Long wrestled to a no-contest.

DALLAS, TX By Joyce Dillon



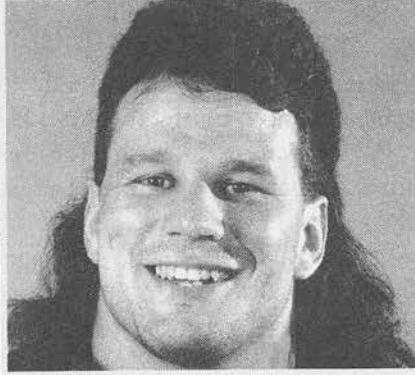
**JERRY LAWLER
vs.
JEFF JARRETT**



This bout was for Lawler's USWA title. Throughout the match, Ronald P. Gossett, who was providing ringside commentary, threw Lawler a chain. Finally, Jarrett got the chain away from Lawler, hit him with it, and scored the pin. But when referee Tony Falk saw the chain in Jarrett's hand, he reversed the decision and awarded the match to Lawler. The Dirty White Boys and Terrance Garvin ran in the ring and started beating up Jarrett, but Bill Dundee made the save.

OTHER BOUTS: Bill Dundee defeated Steve Austin ... Chico Torres pinned Terrance Garvin ... The Dirty White Boys beat Bill Dundee & Eric Embry ... Matt Borne beat Billy Travis ... Borne also beat Kevin Von Erich.

PHILADELPHIA, PA By Alan Raskin



**SCOTT STEINER
vs.
BAM BAM BIGELOW**



Scott was accompanied by his brother, Rick, and Bigelow came to the ring with his manager, Sir Oliver Humperdink. Steiner and Bigelow battled ferociously, with Bigelow kicking and punching to counteract Steiner's flying maneuvers. At one point, Steiner catapulted the 368-pound Bigelow into the ropes and, on the rebound, gave him an incredible belly-to-back suplex. Steiner followed that up with a "Frankensteiner," then got the three-count.

OTHER BOUTS: Ric Flair pinned Lex Luger ... Brian Pillman & Tom Zenk defeated The Midnight Express ... Mike Rotundo pinned Samoan Samu ... Ranger Ross drew with Jacko Victory ... Norman & Abdullah the Butcher defeated Kevin Sullivan & Cactus Jack.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

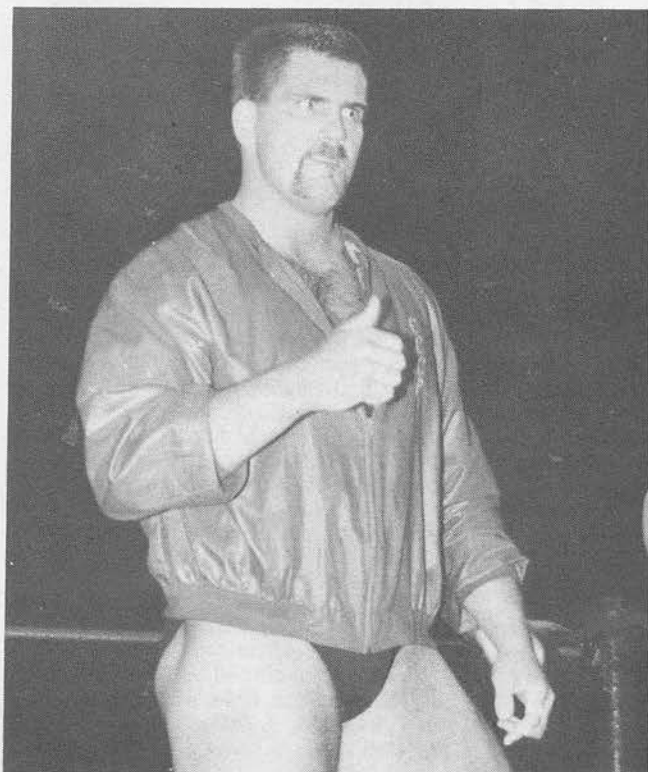
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY: In the offices of *Inside Wrestling*, Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks was on a rampage. "Brock," he shouts, "what are *you* doing here?" I explained that, four days before WrestleMania VI, I decided to take a break. He decided that my column this month should be a "Road to WrestleMania" piece. I packed my bags, pulled out the frequent flyer coupons, and followed the directions of a man who really should know better.

BALTIMORE, MD: The Thursday before WrestleMania VI. It's the Maryland Wrestling Alliance and, as has become the norm with independent cards, the talent roster is impressive: Paul Orndorff, Austin Idol, Nikita Koloff, Larry Zbyszko, and Junkyard Dog are among the names here. More on Orndorff and Idol later. Here, the match

to watch is Nikita vs. Zbyszko. About a week after Baltimore, Nikita beat Zbyszko in under two minutes; the night after that, Zbyszko regained the AWA World title from Mr. Saito. But in Baltimore, Zbyszko looked nothing like a world champion. Nikita handled him easily and locked him in a sleeperhold. Zbyszko couldn't escape and mistakenly slugged referee Dick Woherle, who called for Zbyszko's disqualification. It didn't matter; Nikita would have won anyway. Afterward, Zbyszko had this strange smile on his face. I guess he knew something I didn't. The only person that doesn't underrate Larry Zbyszko is Zbyszko himself.

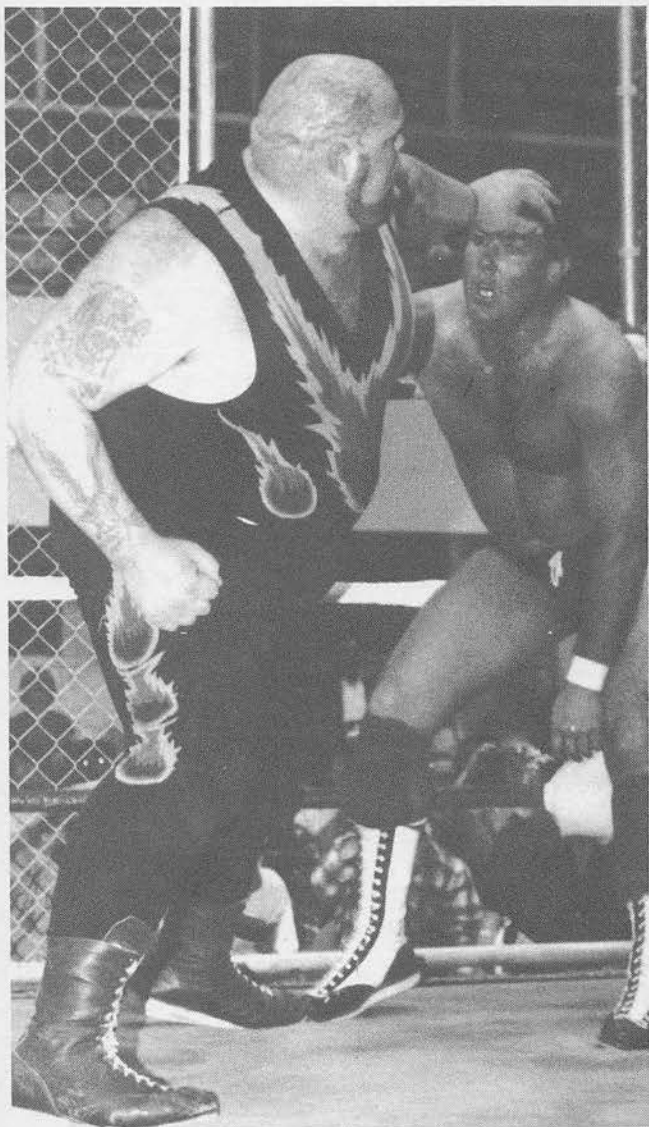
RICHMOND, VA: Friday, March 30. Lex Luger vs. Ric Flair . . . for the umpteenth time. After Luger beat Flair by disqualification . . . for the umpteenth time . . . I ask him how he thinks he'll *ever* beat Flair cleanly. Luger makes a face and slinks away. I head down the hall and ask Flair why he never beats Luger. "You're blind, Brock," he replies and slinks away. So much for straight answers. This feud is getting boring. Luger can't pin Flair cleanly. Flair always finds a way to keep his title. That's the way it's always going to be. Next challenger, please.

PHILADELPHIA, PA: WrestleMania Sunday minus one, spent in the City of Brotherly Love watching Tully Blanchard wrestle Bam Bam Bigelow at Temple University. This is unusual. Philadelphia is a wrestling stronghold, but it's usually the NWA or WWF. This is a Squared Circle Promotions card, although most of the wrestlers appearing are from the USWA/CWA. Check out this lineup: Blanchard, Bigelow, Orndorff, Austin Idol, Paul E. Dangerously, Jerry Lawler, Kerry Von Erich—the kind of lineup that should be able to draw 20,000 fans into an arena. But McGonigle Hall is a small building, and they crammed more than 2,000 people there to see some great wrestling. I hope they realized it. I doubt it, though. In this day and age, the WWF is it, the NWA comes second, and everything else is an also-ran. Well, Mr. Everyfan



NIKITA KOLOFF

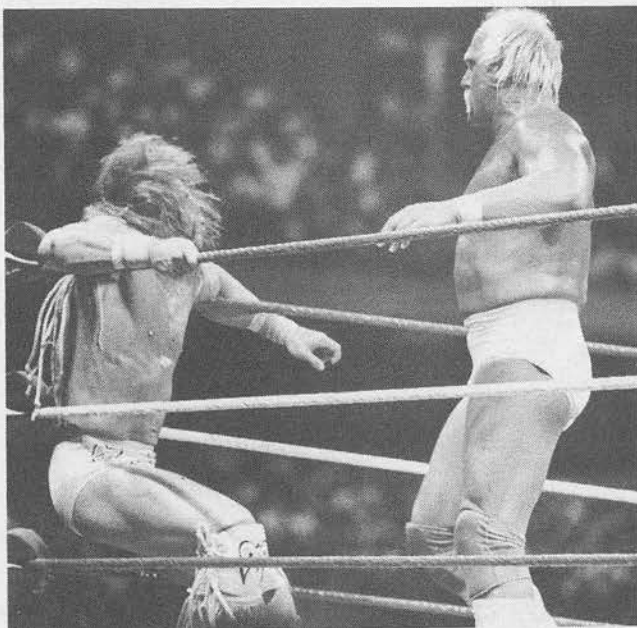
Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



BAM BAM BIGELOW VS. TULLY BLANCHARD

may think that, but don't believe it. Blanchard vs. Bigelow? A war. And would you believe it, the fans rooted for Blanchard! As I said, this town is a stronghold—an NWA stronghold. The fans went with familiarity. This was a steel cage match, and it was something else. Blanchard won, but it wasn't easy. Speed and intelligence, in this case, won out over brawn and brute force. As for Orndorff, it was good to see him again. He looks great, and his match against Austin Idol was terrific. Orndorff won, despite Dangerously's interference, and the crowd cheered again. Times have changed.

TORONTO, ONTARIO: April Fools Day. What an appropriate time to hold WrestleMania VI, the world's most overhyped wrestling event. Everybody in the universe knew about WrestleMania VI, and it seemed as if everybody in the universe was jammed into the high-cholesterol SkyDome (high cholesterol because there's a McDonald's in the building; I took a salad, no dressing). This year, however, the fans showed up for something worth watching: a great spectacle with one great match. Hulk Hogan vs. The Ultimate Warrior alone was worth the price of a ticket, simply because, for the first time in recent memory, both men actually *wrestled*. This was gut-wrenching excitement, and I'm usually not one to wax poetic over a Hogan match. But you have to give both men credit. Hogan and Warrior were taxed to the limit, but both kept going and going, even when they seemed to be beyond the



HULK HOGAN VS. THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

point of exhaustion. To tell you the truth, I'm not sure how many people in the SkyDome realized what they were watching. You see, the public perception of Hogan and Warrior is that they *always* wrestle great matches. Not so. WrestleMania VI, however, was something special, something for the ages. I'm glad I was there. As for those of you with me up in the nosebleed seats, I heard a lot of gripes about being so far from the ring, but you should be glad you were there, too. □

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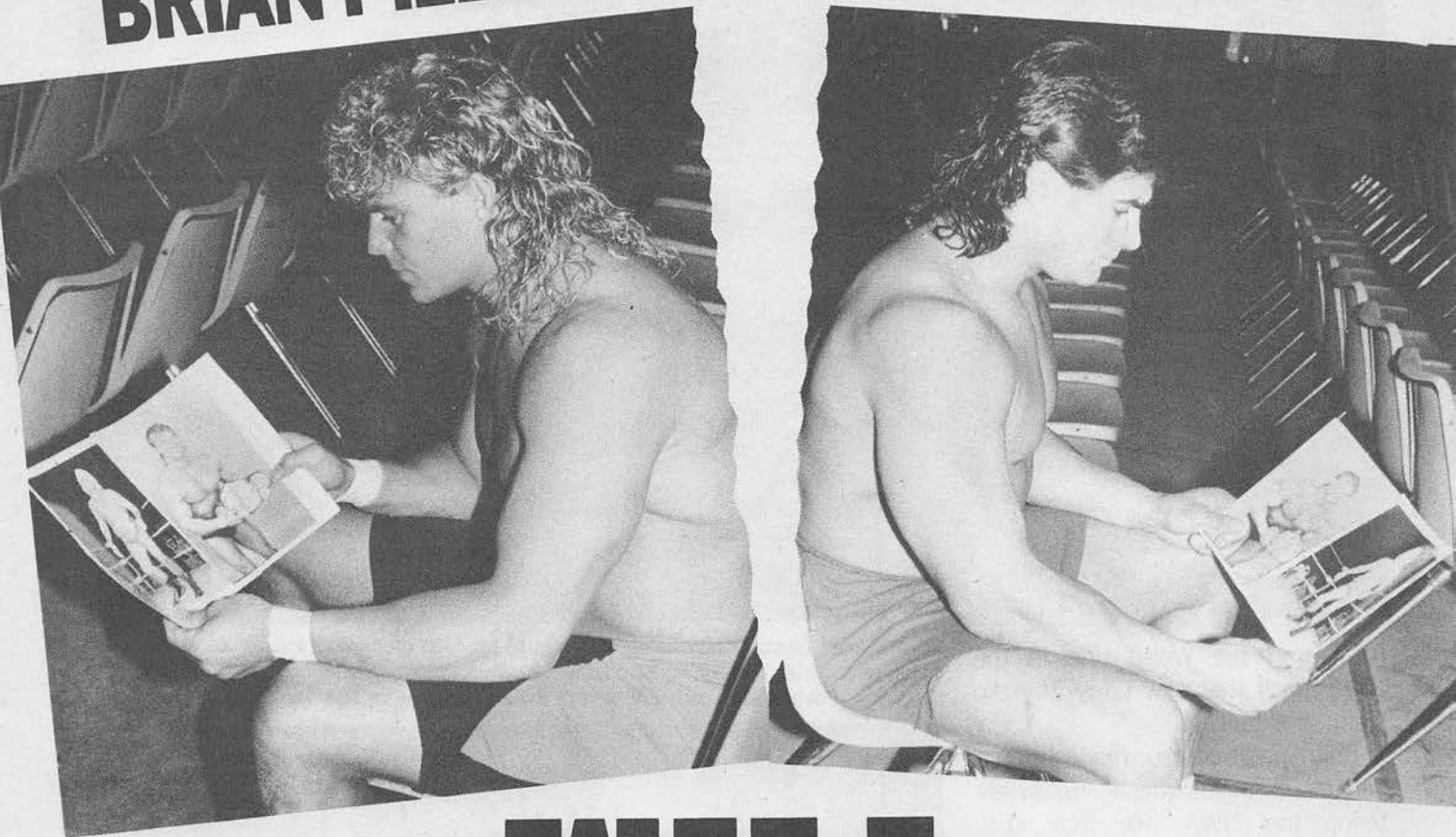
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The special WrestleMania VI edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is cover-dated August 1990. On sale now, it's sure to be a newsstand sellout, so get your copy early!



The Best Keeps Getting Better—
Because You Won't Settle For Less!

BRIAN PILLMAN & TOM ZENK



WILL THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP DREAMS TEAR THEM APART?

By Andy Rodriguez

BRIAN PILLMAN AND Tom Zenk have each spent their careers as half of a greater whole.

In the Stampede area, Pillman teamed with Bruce Hart and won several tag team titles. Because of this relationship, Pillman was

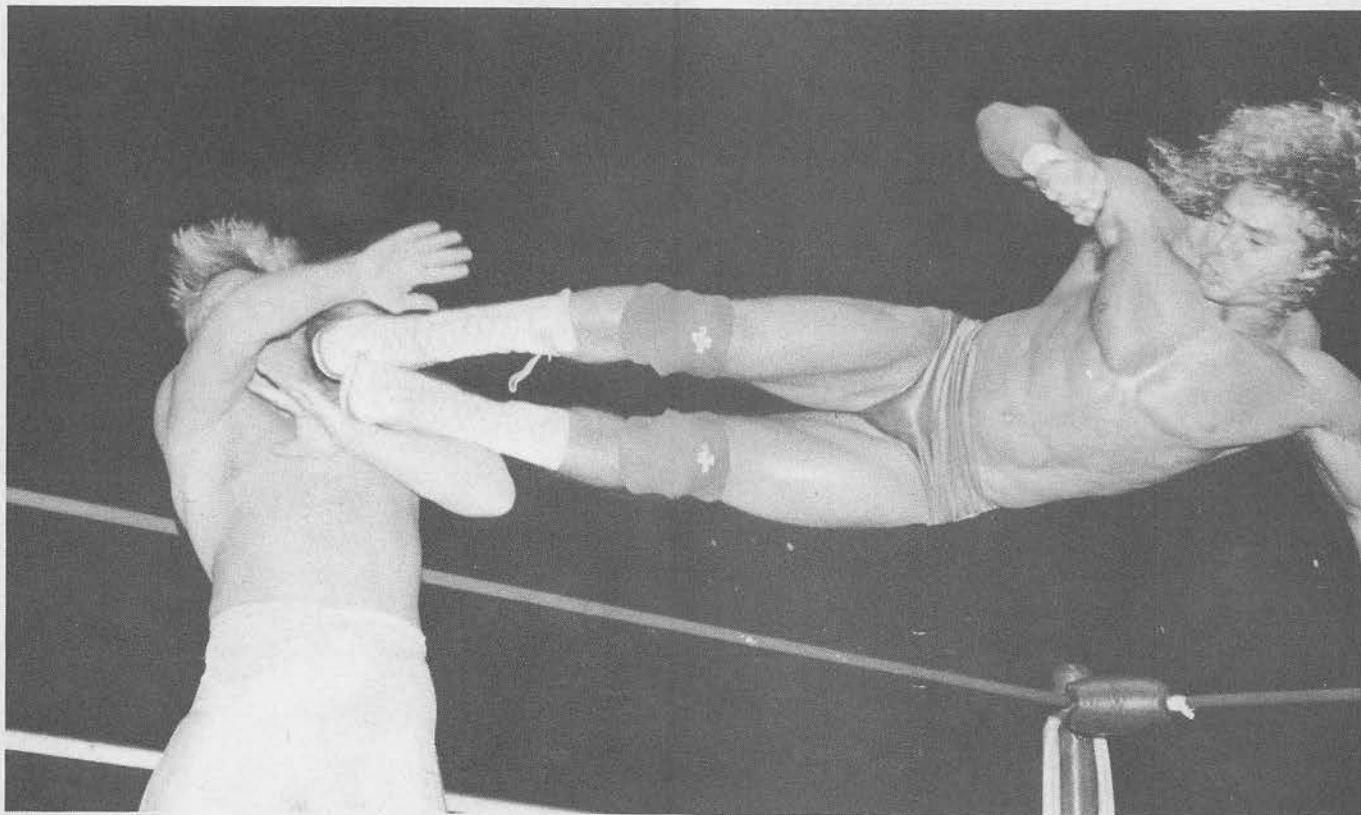
known primarily for his tag team abilities, and the world was left wondering, "What can he do on his own?"

The same was true of Tom Zenk. Say the name "Zenk" and most wrestling fans will reply, "Rick

Martel," the name of Zenk's most famous ex-partner in the WWF tandem known as the Can-Am Connection.

But it hasn't always been this way. Zenk, for example, left the WWF for the AWA, where he al-

Brian Pillman and Tom Zenk are great U.S. tag team champions, but their partnership is on shaky ground. Each man has his own individual goals that involve *singles* titles



Brian Pillman blasts Bobby Eaton with one of his high dropkicks (above). Zenk keeps the action on the mat, armlocking Stan Lane (below). Although they've had a fine U.S. tag team title reign, Pillman and Zenk are always looking for singles title shots.

most won the World title in the battle royal that saw Larry Zbyszko claim the belt.

Pillman, of course, made his impact as a singles wrestler upon entering the NWA. He took U.S. champ Lex Luger to the limit on several occasions, but ultimately fell short of the title.

So now they are together: Pillman and Zenk, two outstanding young wrestlers well-versed in the ways of tag team competition.

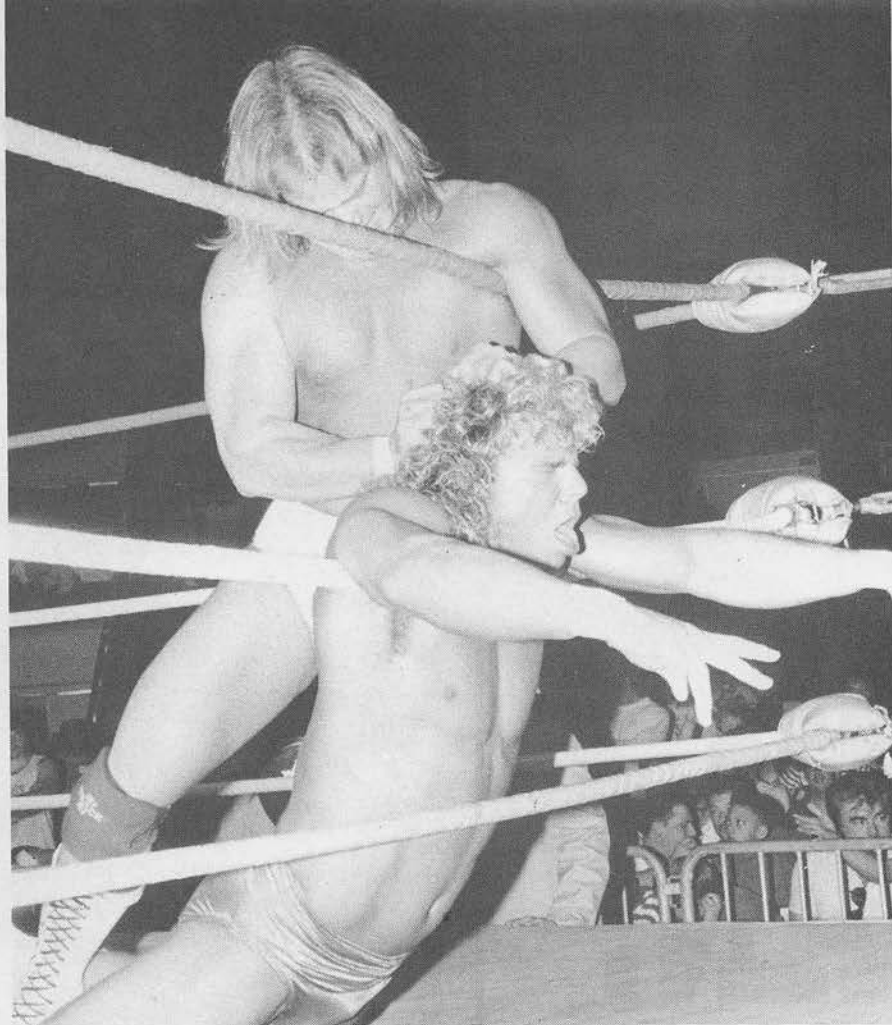
But will their individual dreams of a heavyweight title tear them apart?

More to the point, can Pillman and Zenk satisfy their personal ambitions and still keep their successful tag team intact? It's a question that will be answered very shortly

... and fans of the Pillman-Zenk pairing may not like the answer.

On April 20 at Cincinnati Gardens, Pillman again wrestled Luger for the U.S. title. Luger escaped with his title after Pillman suplexed him to the mat. Both men had their shoulders on the canvas, but Luger lifted his at the last possible second.





Lane treats Pillman roughly on the ropes (above). Zenk whips Eaton across the ropes (right). The Midnight Express has been the top contender for the U.S. tag title.

"It was a great match, and Brian's a great wrestler," said Luger, who embraced Pillman in a fine display of sportsmanship after the match. "There's no doubt in my mind that when I'm World champion, he's the next in line for the U.S. title. Heck, he's got World-title blood in him."

We should find out about that very soon. Shortly before press time, Pillman signed to wrestle Flair as part of a May 5 AWA card in St. Paul, Minnesota, a bout that may be just the first of many for "Flyin' " Brian.

Zenk hasn't pursued a singles championship with the same zeal as Pillman, but his ambitions are very much there. He knows what he can do on his own, and he'd like the chance to prove it to the world.

"Nobody wants to be known as strictly a tag team wrestler," Zenk

says. "I know I can do both, and that's the ultimate test. Sure, there are a lot of wrestlers who have spent their careers as part of a tag team, but look at Hawk and Animal of The Road Warriors. They occasionally get title shots. I want the same treatment. If I can have both, I want both: a tag team career and a singles career."

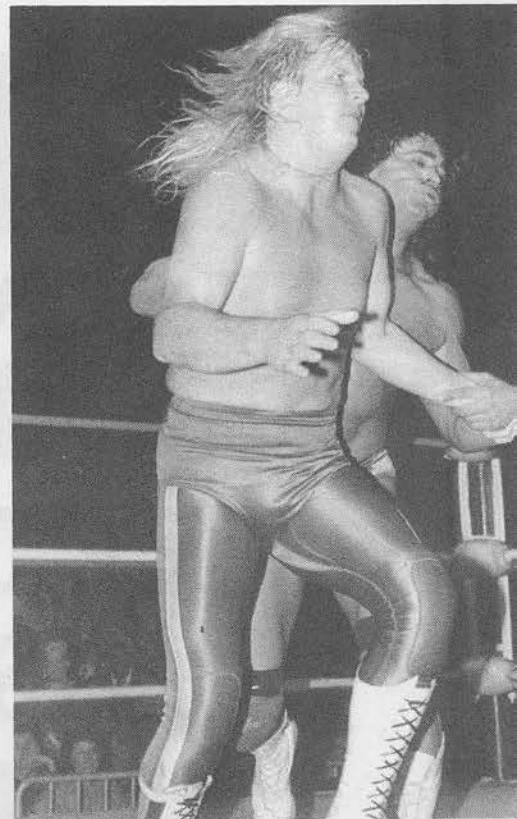
The problem here is that Zenk's mind should always be on defending the U.S. tag title. The same is true of Pillman. This is no time for a slip: There are plenty of teams in the NWA that want the U.S. tag belts. If Pillman and Zenk are too busy with their singles lives, they'll pay for their ambitions with their tag title.

"One might attempt to do both, but it's an eminently difficult prospect," The Road Warriors' manager, Paul Ellering, said. "You'll notice that when Animal and Hawk

were World tag team champions, they virtually never wrestled in singles matches. There was never time. Even now, I always make sure to keep their singles matches to a minimum. That's the only way to do it."

Pillman, who is admittedly less experienced than Ellering, disagreed with this philosophy.

"A complete wrestler can do it all, there's no reason why he can't," Pillman says. "Sure, it's tough, but anything worth doing is



difficult. Look, I'll admit that at some point Tom and I will have to make a decision.

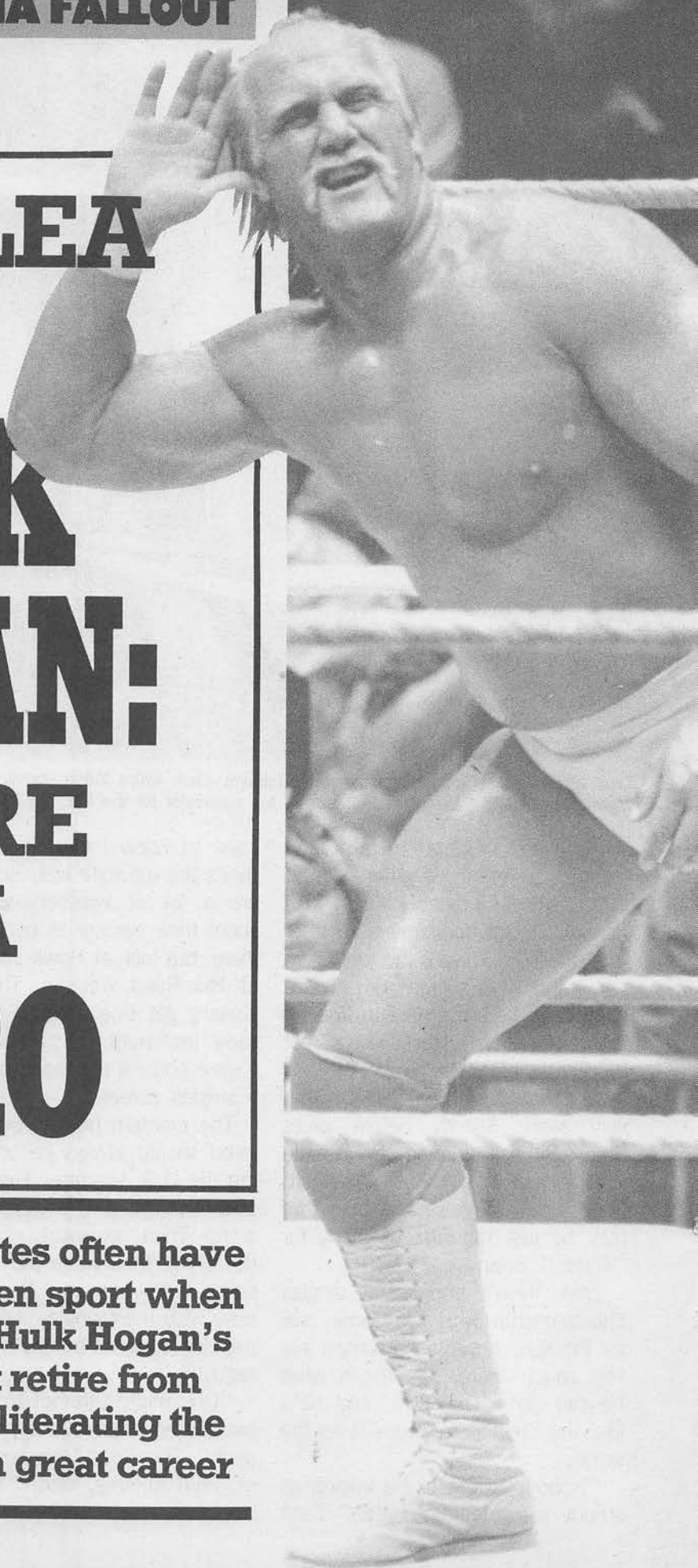
"Listen, I love Tom like a brother," Pillman continued. "He's meant a lot to me. He's a person I can trust, especially since we came to the federation at the same time. But I think we both have it in us to be great singles wrestlers. You know, there's nothing like the camaraderie of tag team wrestling, but there's also nothing like that special feeling of getting in the ring, going all-out with someone like Flair or Luger, and knowing

(Continued on page 56)

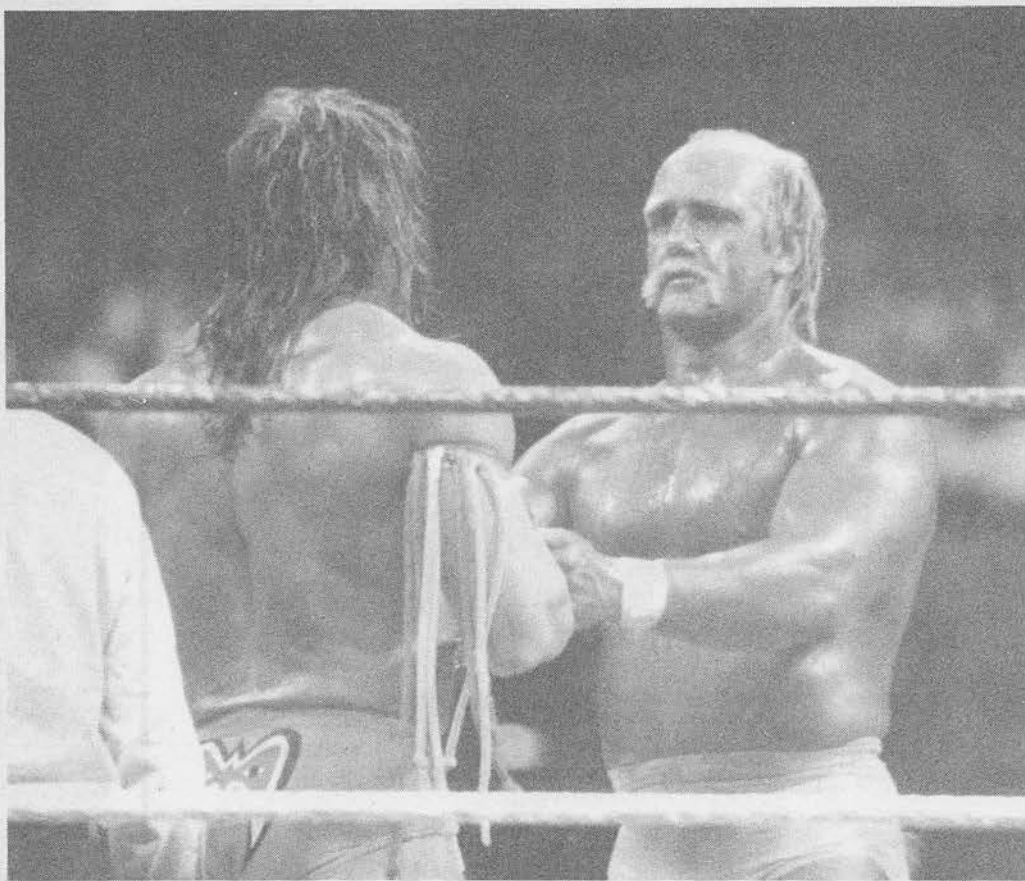
PART I

**OUR PLEA
TO
HULK
HOGAN:
RETIRE
AS A
HERO**

The world's greatest athletes often have trouble leaving their chosen sport when their time has come. But Hulk Hogan's time has come. He must retire from wrestling now, or risk obliterating the everlasting memories of a great career



Hulk Hogan may still hear the cheers of the crowd (left), but how long will it be before he's overshadowed by the youthful Ultimate Warrior (right)?



By Dave Rosenbaum

MUHAMMAD ALI WAITED too long. Roberto Duran made a fool of himself. George Foreman seems to literally roll into the ring; one day, they might have to roll him out.

Boxing's heroes. They loved the game and were a credit to it for years. Their greatest fights will go down in history as some of the greatest sporting events of all time.

And then they wore out their welcomes. Ali, Duran, and Foreman all made comebacks that were, at best, embarrassing; at worst, they overshadowed the most memorable moments of three legendary careers.

And what about Willie Mays? He was one of the greatest players in baseball history, an incredible home run hitter and a magnificent outfielder. He hung on too long, too.

It happens in every sport. It happens in wrestling: Who wouldn't have preferred to see seven-time

former NWA World champion Harley Race bow out before moving to the WWF and a ridiculous stint as "King"?

But why does it have to happen to Hulk Hogan?

Why can't our heroes remain heroes? Why do they feel compelled to recapture past glories? Why do they have to break our hearts?

The fact is, they don't have to. And, in Hogan's case, it would be very easy for him to walk away from the ring and leave behind a magnificent legacy of remarkable accomplishments.

For the past six years, Hulk Hogan was the WWF. A two-time World champion who held the title for five of the past six years, Hogan did more to lift the WWF to a level of worldwide prominence than any other man in history.


When Hogan lost the World title
(Continued on page 58)

Photos by David Fitzgerald

PART II

ULTIMATE WARRIOR BEWARE— YOU'RE NOT THE SECOND COMING OF HULK HOGAN!

The Ultimate Warrior is the WWF World champion, but comparisons to former champ Hulk Hogan are unfair and unrealistic. The "Hulkster" is a legend. Right now, the Warrior is just another man with a belt



Although he's fared quite well in World title defenses against Curt Hennig (top) and Rick Rude (far right), The Ultimate Warrior has a very long way to go if he hopes to reach the legendary status of Hulk Hogan, the man he dethroned.

IT DIDN'T TAKE long. It took, in fact, only seconds after the main event of WrestleMania VI was through for the superlatives to come pouring forth.

"He's the greatest!" they said.

"He's unbeatable!" they said.

"He's another Hulk Hogan!" they said.

The Ultimate Warrior pinned Hogan on April 1 to win the WWF World title and, all of a sudden, the sport had a new legend.

Don't bet on it.

There's only been one Hulk Hogan, and there might never be another. And if there is to be another Hogan, it probably won't be the Warrior.

It's a fact the Warrior ought to heed if he is to be a successful champion.

A majority of the sport's experts interviewed agree that while one era ended at WrestleMania VI, another one didn't necessarily begin.

"I just don't see it," former NWA World champion Lou Thesz said. "Hogan was something special, and you don't usually follow one great reign with another. The Warrior is very much like Hogan, but he's merely a second-rate imitation. The only reason he beat Hogan is because he's younger and maybe a little hungrier. But once he starts getting into those title defenses, we'll see what the Warrior is all about."

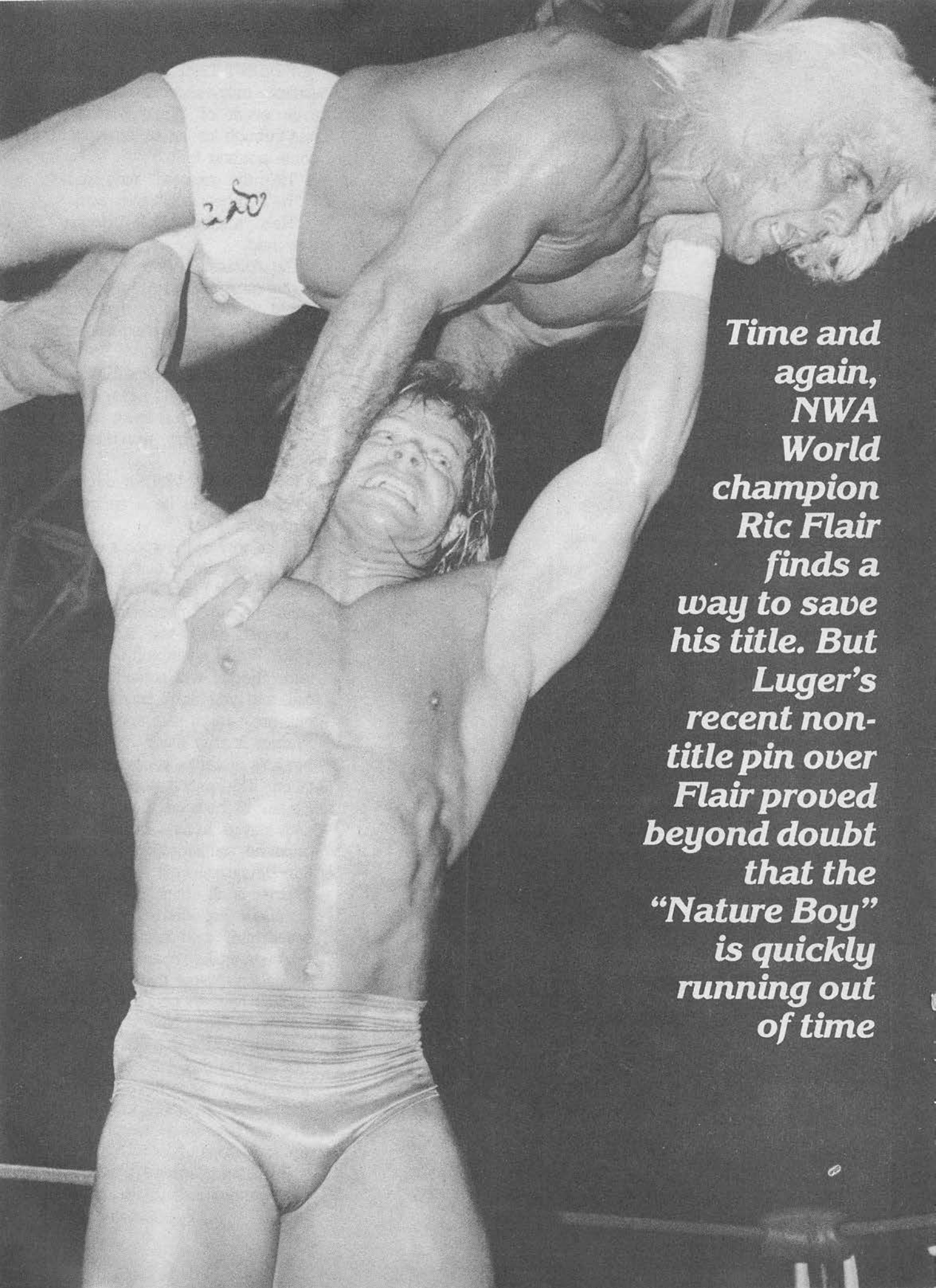
"WWF President Jack Tunney saved him," said former WWF Intercontinental champion Rick Steamboat. "Now that the Warrior doesn't have to give Hogan a rematch, he won't have to show that he's the inferior wrestler. The Warrior had his day. He's never been unbeatable, and never will be. There are some kinks in his armor. The law of averages simply caught up with Hogan."

Even Sting agreed that his former partner isn't up to the pres-

(Continued on page 60)



Photos by David Fitzgerald



Time and again, NWA World champion Ric Flair finds a way to save his title. But Luger's recent non-title pin over Flair proved beyond doubt that the "Nature Boy" is quickly running out of time

The Experts Agree:

LEX LUGER HAS MADE RIC FLAIR A BROKEN MAN

By Bob Smith

THE EVENT THAT took place in a cage in Atlanta's Omni really wasn't *that* unusual. It's happened, in fact, several times before: Lex Luger pinned NWA World champion Ric Flair in a non-title match.

So what?

"Yeah, so what?" Flair said. "He's beaten me in non-title matches before. I turn it down a few notches in non-title matches and he wrestles like there's no tomorrow. If I never won another non-title match, I wouldn't care. It's when the title's on the line that I put it into high gear."

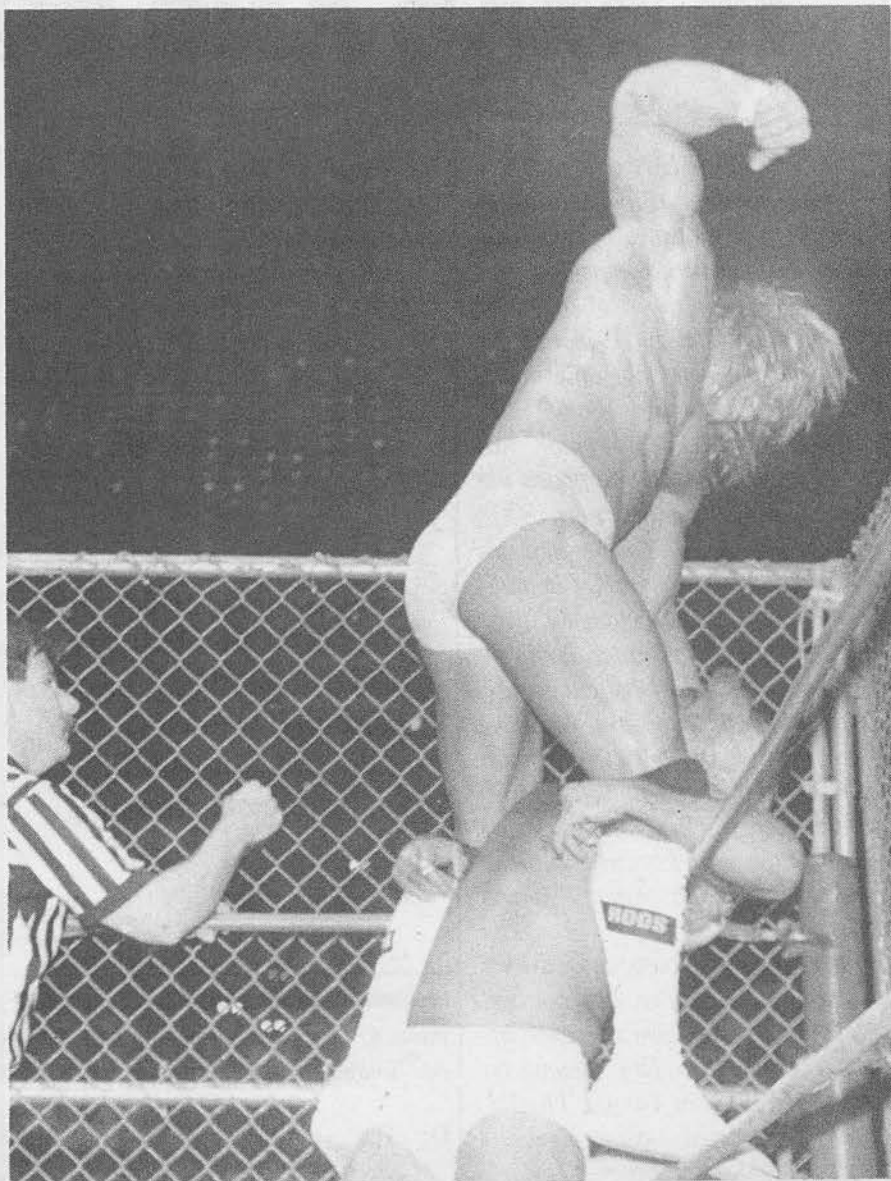
Sure.

And he puts it into gear again, and again, and again. And in the past two months, ever since the latest Luger-Flair series began, Flair hasn't scored a single clean pinfall victory. He's won through interference and cheating, and he's lost the same way.

Somehow, he escapes with his title. But there can be no doubt: Flair is weakening.

"Look into his eyes," Luger said. "Did you see the look on his face when I pinned him in that cage in Atlanta? He's obsessed with me. He can't handle losing a single match to me. He says he doesn't care about non-title matches? Bull. He cares. He knows I have his number."

(Continued on page 62)



Lex Luger presses Ric Flair high overhead (opposite page). When Luger got Flair inside a steel cage (above), he beat him, but Flair's NWA World title wasn't on the line, so the "Total Package" came up empty.

HOTSEAT

TERRY TAYLOR: "THE 'RED ROOSTER' IS DEAD AND BURIED!"

FOR MORE THAN a year, Terry Taylor has been a man unsure of his identity. He's always been an aggressive and talented competitor, but after joining the stable of manager Bobby Heenan late in 1988, Taylor started changing—and not only into a rulebreaker. The former World Class Texas and UWF TV champion was about to undergo a metamorphosis unlike any ever seen in the sport.

Heenan convinced Taylor that his WWF career would take off if he radically altered his image. Suddenly, Taylor became The Red Rooster, complete with a red-dyed spiked haircut, a turkey-like strut, and interviews where he crowed instead of talked. He also changed his ring style completely to try to please Heenan. Once totally scientific, Taylor now would brawl and break the rules; "poultry in motion," it was called.

While initially successful, Taylor's association with Heenan did not last long. Taylor turned against Heenan after losing a match to Tito Santana on December 7, 1988, in Tampa, Florida. The fans appreciated Taylor's new, independent outlook, and they—Taylor's "Rooster boosters"—cheered him on to victory against Heenan at WrestleMania V. But surprisingly, Taylor kept

the image of The Red Rooster even after breaking away from the unscrupulous manager.

As it turns out, Taylor has been unhappy about wrestling as the Rooster for the past year. Now, in this exclusive interview with Associate Editor Bob Smith, Taylor reveals how he

“

I was never comfortable being The Red Rooster, because that's not me. I spent nine years trying to make the name of Terry Taylor mean something.

”

plans to put his comical—and unwanted—image to rest once and for all.

Q: Terry, the last time we spoke was . . . well, I guess it was about two years ago, as you prepared to make your WWF debut. It was about then that you joined forces

with Bobby Heenan, but your relationship didn't last all that long. What happened?

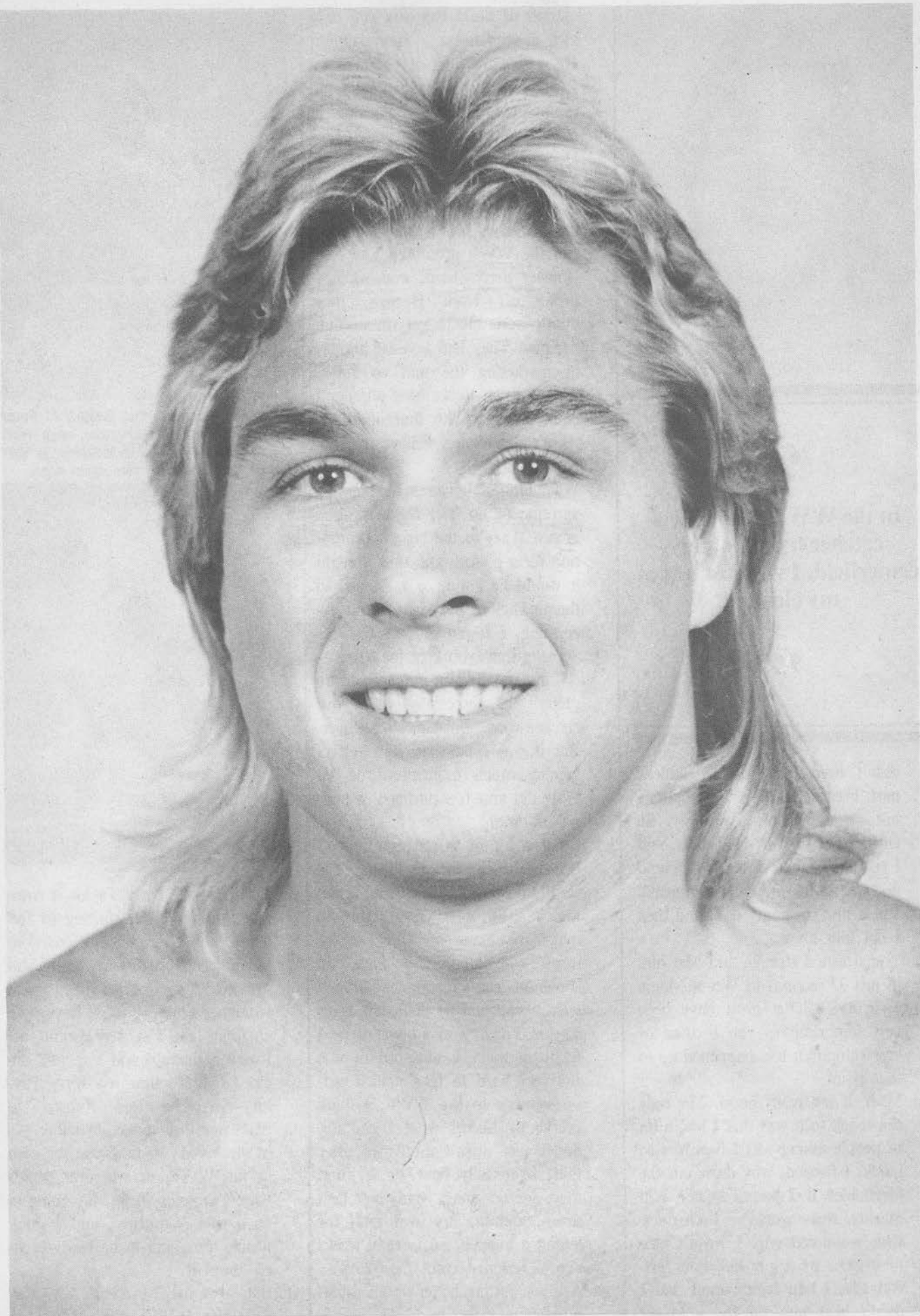
A: Well, he said that he was going to show what a great manager he was by taking a guy with average ability, average size, and average strength and make him a superstar in the WWF.

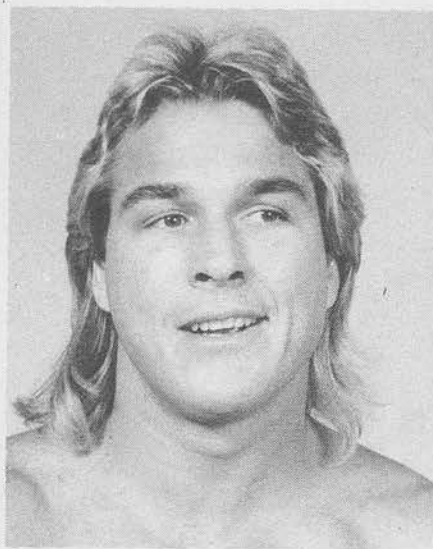
Q: Obviously, you don't agree that you're only an "average" competitor, do you?

A: Not at all. I've held titles in every major promotion except the WWF. I mean, for nine years I was one of the best wrestlers around, and the rankings always proved that. Heenan knew what I could do before he ever said all those things, so he proved that he was a liar.

Q: But why did you allow him to get away with all that? He was saying all of those things right in front of you, and you would always nod your head in agreement.

A: Bobby had been in the WWF for five years, and he had all the contacts that I needed to be successful. Sometimes you have to kiss butt before you can kick butt, I guess. I really needed his help, or so I thought. Heenan got me all the connections I needed. I knew I





“

In the WWF, I felt like a catcher trying to play centerfield. I was just out of my element.

”

didn't need him for the athletic part, because he never did anything but get in the way, anyway. So when I got tired of his insults, and I felt like he had done all he could do, well, you saw what happened. I beat him up pretty bad, and then I cut him loose.

Q: You wrestled Heenan and beat him in just 32 seconds at WrestleMania V in 1989. That must have been very important to you because of everything that had happened up to that point.

A: Yeah, it felt really good. The only drawback to it was that I had a lot of people asking why I beat him so quick. I figured, why draw out the inevitable? If I hadn't beaten him quickly, there would've been those who wondered why I wasn't able to dispose of a guy like that fast. But still, I had critics upset that I didn't beat him up for a longer

period of time! But you can only kick a dead horse so many times. He wasn't the kind of competition I wanted. I wanted to make an example of him and move on.

Q: It was right when you signed with Heenan that your new image as The Red Rooster came about. Was that your idea, or was it Heenan's?

A: (*Disgustedly*) Nah, that was his. But the WWF promoted The Red Rooster pretty hard, and when I broke off from Heenan, they didn't want me to get rid of that persona. They had invested money in marketing me and so forth. They wanted to see how popular I could become with that image. It wasn't my choice, believe me.

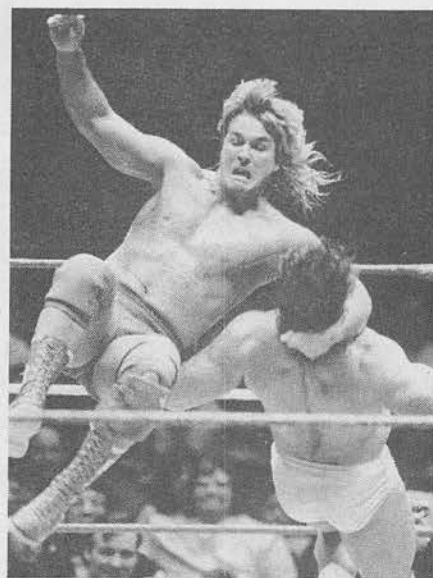
Q: Not at all?

A: Well, I guess it *was* my choice by agreeing to do it. I followed their advice. They're the biggest promotion for a reason, and they thought it would be good, so I listened to them. They're not right about everything, I found out.

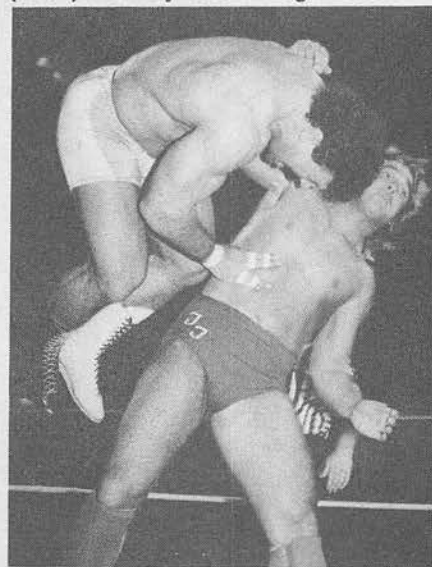
Q: So after that, you kept the "Rooster" image, and you managed to do pretty well, especially with your chicken-wing finishing maneuver. But it was clear that you weren't gaining much momentum at all. How did you feel during this period of time?

A: I felt a lot of mixed emotions. I was never comfortable being The Red Rooster, because that's not me. I spent nine years trying to make the name of Terry Taylor mean something, and then, on somebody else's recommendation, I went ahead and let them kill Terry Taylor. For lack of a better term, I let them make a bird out of me. It's very hard to take a bird seriously, even in the WWF. I think everybody knows what I can do, but I just wasn't motivated after that. I honestly have to say that they pretty much had me beat down, and it's my own fault for letting it happen. So, several weeks ago, I resigned from the WWF.

Q: Are you feeling better about things now?



The "Red Rooster" that battled Al Perez (above) doesn't exist anymore, says Terry Taylor. Taylor wrestled Rick Steiner in 1987 (below) and may face him again soon.



A: Yes. The old Terry Taylor is coming back, and I'm starting to feel good about myself again. I'm moving forward in my career and my life. I'm married to a great woman, Trudi, and I have two children that I'm very proud of. I'm very happy, and I've just decided that it's time for Terry Taylor—not The Red Rooster—to make another move. Whether it's in the NWA, or in Japan, or even in the WWF, or wherever, that's what I'm going to do. It's going to be a true resurgence, and I think people are going to be really excited about it.

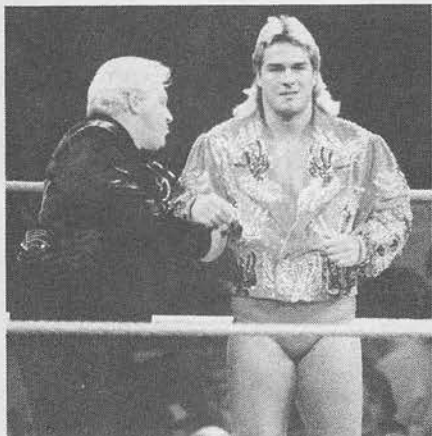
Q: But obviously, even if you stay with the WWF, you're not too

thrilled with The Red Rooster image.

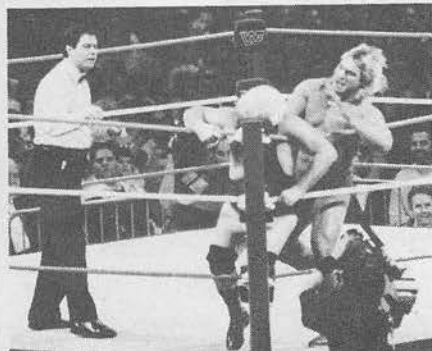
A: Yeah. The Red Rooster is dead and buried. I resigned from the WWF to get away from The Red Rooster. They were nice enough to let me come back and wrestle even after I resigned, but I want to get rid of that image for good. I guess the best way to do that would be to wrestle someplace else.

Q: What about the NWA? Have you managed to keep up with what's going on there at all?

A: Are you kidding? I'm a student of this sport. I think Ric Flair is the best wrestler going, and a lot of people say I've copied him throughout my career—which is something he should take as a compliment. Flair is the best to me, because he's not a giant in a big man's game, and because he's still on top. But the way he's out there wrestling every single night, sooner or later his body is going to say "enough." Or he's going to come to the point where he just doesn't want success like he does now. He's been on top for *so* long.



Taylor says Bobby Heenan did him more harm than good (above), and he took great pleasure in beating him in the ring (below).



How much longer can he stay sharp? Soon, he might finally decide to step down, or somebody might give him a little push. It might just be me.

Q: How about some of the other federations? Would you be interested in wrestling in the AWA, or perhaps CWA or USWA, where you've had a lot of success in the past?

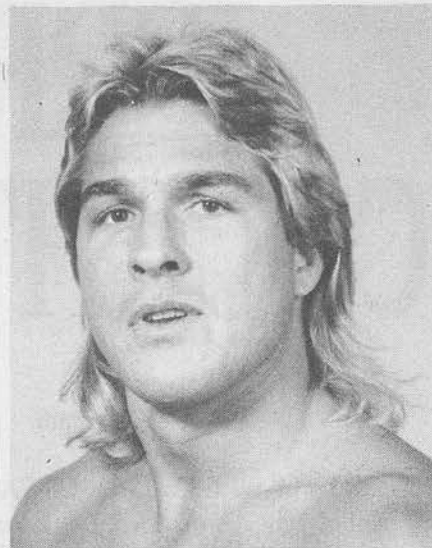
A: No, I don't think so. Those are small promotions, and I'd be a big fish in a small pond, and that really isn't satisfying to me ego-wise or competition-wise. I'm not knocking those promotions, but to get the notoriety that I'd like to have, you have to be in the major leagues. That's the NWA, Japan, or the WWF.

Q: How important is it to you to regain the credibility that many people have said you've lost since becoming the Rooster?

A: Well, to those who say I lost credibility, their opinion really doesn't matter. Intelligent people look past the surface of things. I'm happy to be getting away from The Red Rooster, I'll be happy to get back to being Terry Taylor. But if I fall on my face as myself, then nothing will be different. It's up to me to be successful and get back into the swing of things as myself. If I do go to the NWA or Japan, *that's* my style, to get down and really wrestle. You know what I mean: 30 minutes of holds and counterholds, the human chess kind of thing. My style is really wrestling, not show biz.

Q: So you're optimistic about your future?

A: Very. I feel if I'm given the opportunity, I'm as good as anybody in the sport. I also feel that on any given day I can beat anybody. All I've ever asked for in any wrestling organization is a chance. In the WWF, I felt like a catcher who was trying to play centerfield. I guess I was just out of my element. I think people are going to see a new Terry Taylor, a revived Terry



“

I'm starting to feel good about myself again. I'm moving forward in my career and my life.

”

Taylor, and a guy who's just happy to be wrestling. That's what I love to do, really. I love to wrestle and I love to entertain the people, and whether they love me or hate me, it's great to have them out there.

Q: Not too many people seem to hate you right now. Most of the fans in the arenas seemed to appreciate your efforts in the WWF.

A: I think the fans appreciate hard work and someone who likes what they do. It's up to me to give them their money's worth for as long as I'm in there. I pretty much feel like I'm one of them, anyway. I was the biggest wrestling fan this sport ever had, then I just got lucky enough to get into this sport 10 years ago. I'm still grateful I have an opportunity to wrestle. It's something that I'll always enjoy doing, Rooster or no Rooster. □

JERRY LAWLER— CAUGHT RED-HANDED!

By Bob Smith

JERRY LAWLER, THE USWA champion, was nabbed with the evidence. But a loophole in the rules and, perhaps, the cowardice of USWA/CWA officials, saved Lawler's title and left Kerry Von Erich wondering what he had to do to prove that "The King" is up to no good.

"The photo," Von Erich said. "Take a look at the photo. That's all the proof you need."

"We need more than that," USWA/CWA President Max Andrews said. "There's a lot that can be done with photos these days through modern technology. We need hard and fast proof and the referee has to see it."

"I did nothing wrong," Lawler said. "And I'm very happy that Max Andrews had the guts to stand up to the pressures put on him by Von Erich and the fans and make the right decision."

The proof, however, is right here on this page. Look for yourself and judge the evidence.

Clearly, beyond the shadow of a doubt, Lawler has a small chain wrapped around his fist, and is burying his fist in Kerry's mouth.

The chain is clearly visible.

The fans, at the time, were irate. *They* saw what was going on. But the referee was unconscious, and *that's* where the loophole comes in.

"We can't do anything without the referee's official report," Andrews said. "Without it, we don't have the full story. Unfortunately, the referee was knocked out at the time of the incident, so we have to assume that Mr. Lawler was not guilty of any wrongdoing. In this country, a man is innocent until proven guilty."

But Bill Apter, who purchased the photo for *The Wrestler* from Philadelphia photographer Ed Russino, insists that nothing was done to doctor the photo. Apter, in fact,

was willing to take a lie detector test to prove his honesty.

"I'm a professional journalist, not just a professional photographer, and doctoring photos in any way is patently unethical," Apter said. "If Andrews wants, I'll produce the negative."

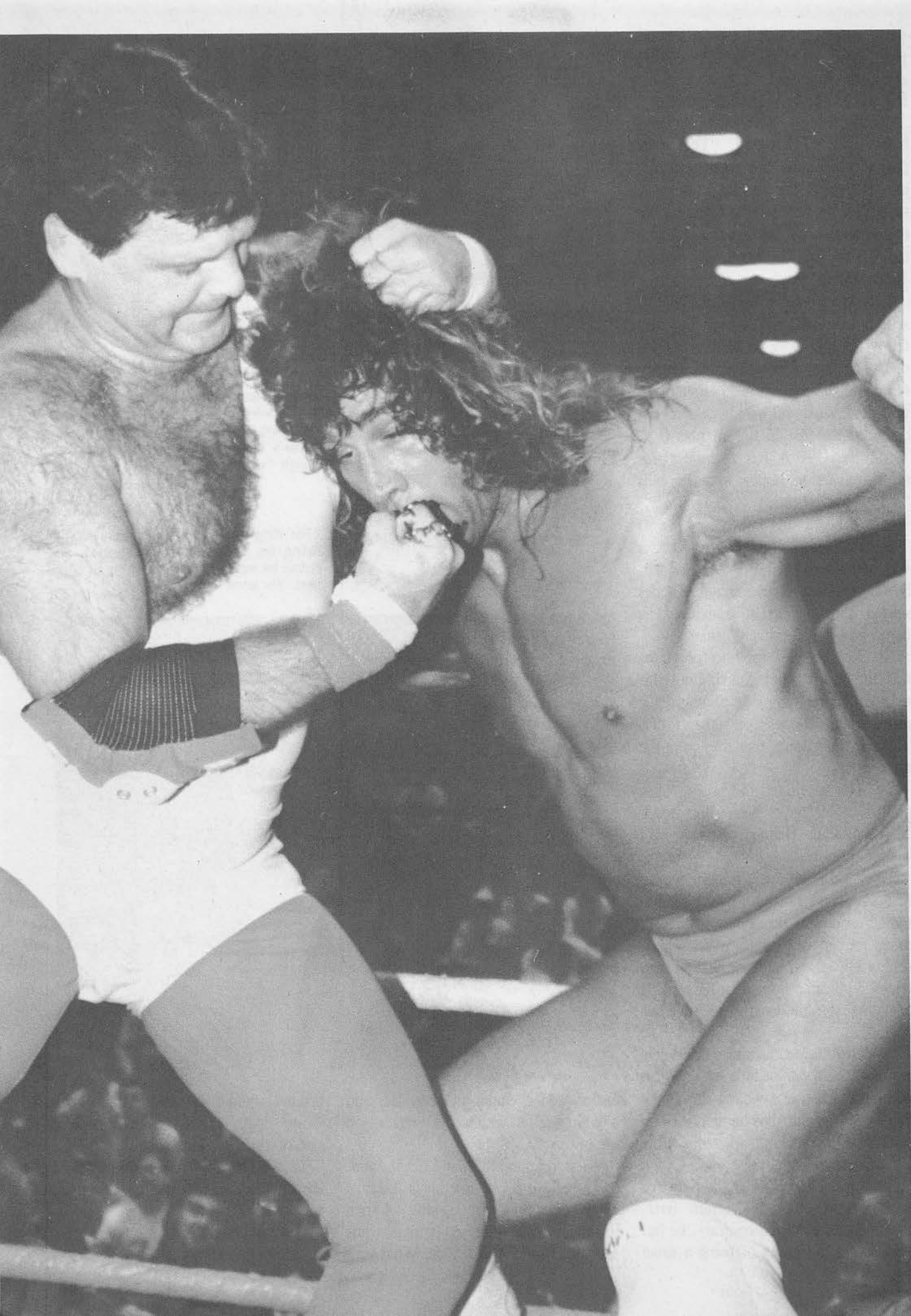
Andrews, however, said the investigation is closed, and that's the saddest part of this entire story.

On countless occasions in the past, Lawler has been guilty of using a chain on opponents. It is a small chain, perhaps no larger than a woman's necklace or ankle bracelet (check your jewelry box, Paula Lawler!). But



Jerry Lawler has almost been caught hiding a foreign object many times (above). Finally, we caught him blatantly using the chain on Kerry Von Erich (right).

The evidence is overwhelming: a photo of Jerry Lawler blatantly using a small chain on Kerry Von Erich. But the USWA/CWA has turned a blind eye to the evidence, and Lawler continues to go unpunished!



when wrapped around Lawler's hand, the chain is capable of causing significant damage. Particularly when it's buried in an opponent's face.

"That thing's little, but it really hurts," Von Erich said. "The worst part is that Lawler has no trouble hiding it because it's so small. It easily slips into his shorts and, when he has to throw it away, he just tosses it into the stands. It's so small, it's almost impossible to see."

Lawler, of course, has been guilty of several other illegalities over the past few years, but none as heinous as this one. The use of a dangerous foreign object is simply uncalled for. It is sad—and shameful—that Lawler has defended his title in this manner.

But the USWA has its rules. Andrews refuses to honor what he calls "second-hand hearsay evidence."

We've heard this line before.

Several years ago, Dusty Rhodes was suspended by the NWA. Suddenly, a character resembling Rhodes started showing up at matches. His name was The Midnight Rider.

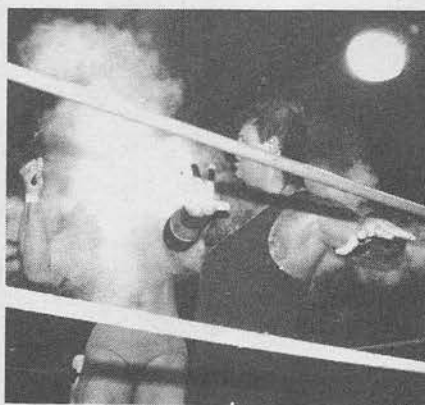
Rhodes' enemies tried to prove he was the Rider. They failed, until this magazine came up with photographic proof that Rhodes *was* the Rider. There was no doubt that they were the same man.

The NWA rejected the proof. "The photo could have been doctored," NWA officials claimed. And a man went unpunished.

This situation is much worse. Rhodes wasn't hurting anyone by parading around as the Rider. He wasn't using foreign objects to maim opponents. Lawler is, and he has turned into a despicable human being capable of going to any lengths to save his title.

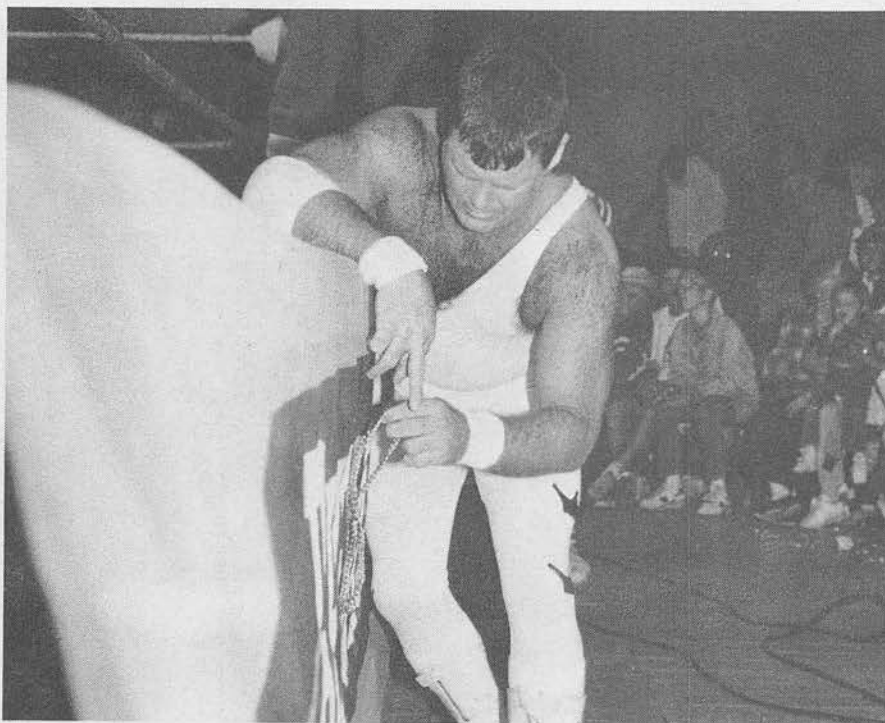
"I defend my title in an honorable manner," Lawler claims. "There is nothing illegal about what I do. Put it this way: I go into hostile arenas every night and I come out with that title. Give me some credit."

But Lawler deserves credit only for avoiding prosecution. Despite overwhelming proof to the contrary, he has been found not guilty of using a small



Lawler utilizes other methods of cheating, like throwing powder in the face (top left) and using a chair (left). Eric Embry feels Lawler's chain around his throat (above), though the chain isn't visible.

"The King" always has a sneaky way of hiding his chain from view (below), and claims he wouldn't dare use it on an opponent. We know better.



chain—and a chair, and powder, and anything else within his reach—on opponents.

"It's criminal," Von Erich said. "What's worse is that he's been a black mark on this title, which I tried to uphold with honor. It makes me sad. But Lawler will get his. What goes

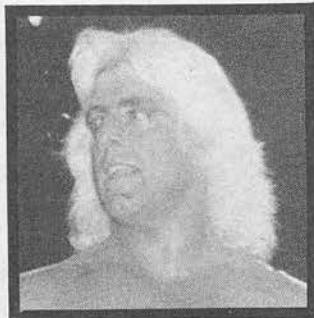
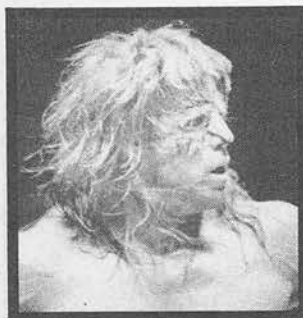
around comes around. Remember: Crime doesn't pay. Lawler is running out of time."

Is he? The USWA refuses to act on the situation. Lawler just goes on using his chain.

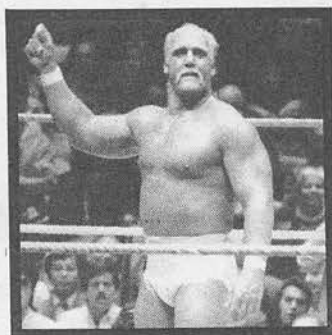
He was caught red-handed . . . but it didn't change a thing. □

THIS MONTH IN...

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS



ULTIMATE WARRIOR faces off against **RIC FLAIR** in a very special "Superstar Dream Match"



After the WrestleMania VI loss . . . where does **HULK HOGAN** go from here?

PLUS . . .

SPECIAL SECTION: Wrestling beware—these men can't be trusted! . . .

FULL-COLOR action gallery of **NORMAN . . . STING**: "I can't find happiness in **ARN ANDERSON'S** pain" . . . "Superstar Interview" with **WOMAN** . . . **BUDDY ROSE**—The career that could have been

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in the August 1990 issue of
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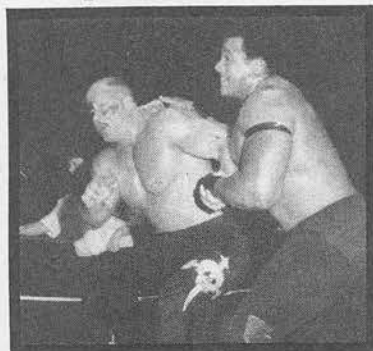
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THE Wrestler



HULK HOGAN-ULTIMATE WARRIOR II—You can make it happen! Sign our petition now



Defiled by **DOOM**: "The **ROAD WARRIOR** era is over!"

PLUS . . .

Syracuse University forces **MIKE ROTUNDO** to turn good: "They were going to take away my letter!" . . . The **DEMOLITION** dilemma: So many teams, so few opponents . . . Our message to **ERIC EMBRY**: You're a fool to do **THE VON ERICHS'** dirty work . . . "Q & A" interview with **LARRY ZBYSZKO**

All this and much more . . .
in the August 1990 issue of
The Wrestler

ON SALE NOW!

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

FORGET THAT BLURB above. This time, we're changing pace. It's flashback time.

October 14, 1986: Magnum T.A., the most popular athlete in the NWA, almost loses his life in a terrible automobile crash. He makes an excellent recovery, but chances are that he will never wrestle again.

February 6, 1989: Sting, the most popular athlete in the NWA, seriously injures his left knee attempting to gain revenge on the Horsemen. The injury is worsened when the Horsemen attack him later. Surgery to repair a ruptured left kneecap is successful, but it will be many months before Sting wrestles again.

Two great wrestlers, both cut down on the verge of superstardom. Their stories are tragic, but there is hope. Sting, following successful post-surgery physical therapy, may get his hands on Ric Flair again soon. And, believe it or not, Magnum holds out the slim hope that he may sometime return to the ring.

Sting knew Magnum's story, but has gained a newfound appreciation for what T.A. has gone through over the past four years. Magnum was always impressed by Sting and his ring skills, but now feels a special bond with the young grappler.

As both men travel their own roads to recovery, *Inside Wrestling* knew they must have a great deal to say to one another—about each other, and about the current state of affairs in the NWA. So we were happy when Sting and Magnum T.A. agreed to come together not for confrontation, but for conversation . . . "One on One."

ONE ON ONE



"I can't wait to get back in the ring. This darn knee can't heal fast enough to satisfy me."

—Sting

STING:

Magnum, it's really good to talk to you. Sometimes I just go stir crazy being cooped up doing all this therapy.

MAGNUM T.A.:

Believe me, I know how you feel. I just had surgery done on my spine, up in the neck area, and I'm going through a lot of the same feelings. But it really is necessary. If we didn't do it, it'd be a lot harder to come back.

S: I guess you're right, but man, I can't wait to get back in the ring. This darn knee can't heal fast enough to satisfy me.

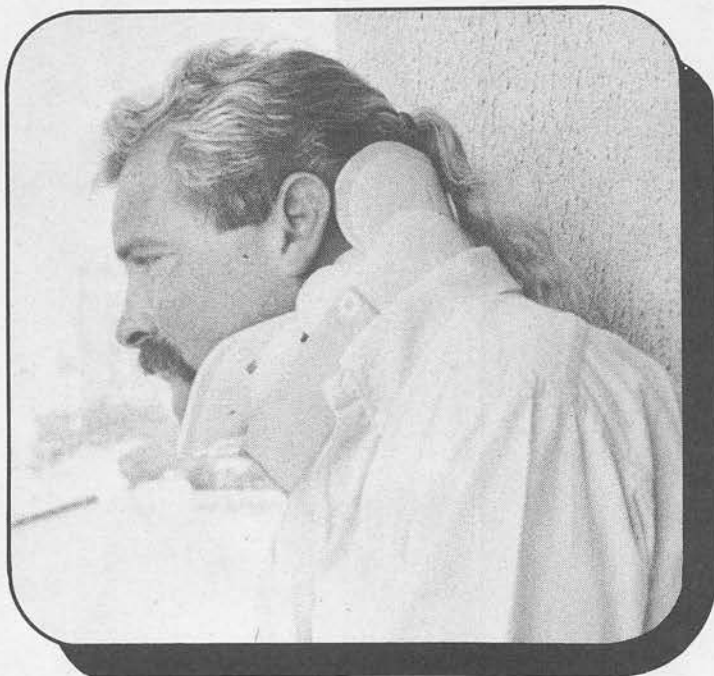
M: Whoa, you really *are* impatient! Reminds me of me, right after the

accident. I couldn't believe I was lying in a hospital bed instead of wrestling. It was incredibly frustrating. At night, I almost felt guilty not being at the arena. Stupid, isn't it?

S: No way, because I've had the same feeling. You get so used to doing the same thing night after night that it seems unnatural doing something else. That routine gets awfully familiar.

M: But so does *this* routine. At times I hardly remember what life was like *before* the accident. It's kind of scary, but I try not to let it obsess me. I've got a lovely wife and family who help me keep focused on my goals. I won't let them

N ONE



"Reminds me of me, right after the accident. I couldn't believe I was lying in a hospital bed instead of wrestling."

—Magnum T.A.

rest of his Horsemen buddies. You know, I laugh when they call the Horsemen "the most elite group in professional wrestling." To me, that implies that they stand for something good, when in reality they're the biggest group of bums in wrestling.

- S:** I never thought about it that way, but I guess for a while I was one of those bums. Not that I ever intended any harm, but I didn't realize how closely the Horsemen name had been associated with rulebreaking. They laid down that reputation a long time before I joined the group, and it would have been a longer time before I helped erase it.
- M:** I hear now they've got Sid Vicious to join them. What a shame. That kid showed a lot of promise, now he has to go ruin his career by associating with the Horsemen.
- S:** Yeah, but to be honest with you, Magnum, I couldn't care less about Vicious. I have my own problems to worry about. If Vicious wants to be a Horseman, fine. But when I get back in fighting shape, he'll have to pay the price like the rest of them, and that also goes for Barry Windham, another man I thought I could trust.
- M:** This sport isn't fun and games, that's for sure. Sometimes I wonder if we've chosen the right profession *(laughs)*.
- S:** I don't regret becoming a wrestler for one minute. There's nothing like getting in there and testing yourself one-on-one against the best. And it's the greatest feeling in the world when you win on the strength of your own skills, without cheating. I wonder if Flair remembers that feeling.
- M:** Only in his dreams, I guess. It'll be a particular pleasure for all of us who've feuded with him when you get back and put him in his place. You're carrying on a fight that started a long time ago.
- S:** If it's all the same to you, dude, that's a responsibility I'd rather not think about. As far as I'm concerned, this thing started at the Clash on February 6. I don't know when or where it's gonna end, but when it does, I promise you I'll be the one on top.
- M:** And I'll be rooting for you all the way, my friend. Hang in there. Your time will come, sooner than you think. □

down, and I won't let myself down.

- S:** You sure haven't let *me* down. This might sound corny, but you really have been an inspiration to me. Hell, what you went through was a whole lot worse than a silly knee injury.
- M:** C'mon, don't sell yourself short. A friend of mine hurt his knee like you did and he told me how painful it was. Boy, Flair and his pals will do anything to get what they want, won't they?
- S:** That's why getting back at them is gonna be so sweet. It wasn't too long ago that I actually looked up to Flair! I thought he'd finally cleaned up his act and was ready

to be an honorable champion. That's why I was so thrilled when they asked me to join the Horsemen. And when I got that World title shot, that was the ultimate. But looking back, I should've known that Flair and the Andersons are just sneaks, out to double-cross whoever they can. They've at least taught me one thing: to be on guard 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I'll *never* let that happen again.

- M:** That's Flair. He'll never change. It's his nature. He goads you into a trap and—*bang!*—he slams the door shut. It would be a cold day in hell before I ever even *thought* about teaming with him and the

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

Wrestle War, just an occasional card. The NWA is going stronger than ever, and it's time that a whole new region of fans in the Southwest were exposed to its exciting action—live and in person!

DARIN GAILEY
Phoenix, AZ

INDIE INTEREST

It's often been stated that your magazine covers all wrestling federations, but I find little evidence of this in *Inside Wrestling*. Throughout the magazine, almost all the articles are in some way related to the WWF or NWA. While this is fine, a true fan like myself can get tired of the same thing month after month. I cannot even remember the last article written about the WWC or ICW.

A lot of recent editorials have been on the subject of poor attendance at



ICW champion Tony Atlas—and the federation in which he wrestles—deserves more coverage in this magazine, writes reader Joel Ruiz.

independent cards. I think the reason for the low turnout is that people are not made aware of the existence of these organizations. I feel that better coverage through your magazine can change that.

JOEL RUIZ
New York

LPWA LAURELS

I was happy to read Liz Hunter's excellent "On Assignment" column concerning the LPWA in the June issue. It's about time that your roster of wrestling magazines addressed more of the lady wrestlers.

The only question right now is whether the LPWA can thrive among the larger federations. In many countries, women's wrestling is as respected as men's wrestling. The Japanese women wrestlers are considered some of the greatest athletes in the world.

Few men will ever duplicate the skills of The Jumping Bomb Angels, for instance.

Hunter was correct in realizing that the LPWA needs corporate funding. The AWA is the only other federation that tries to promote its women's title at all.

Good luck, LPWA. May you woo lots of fans away from the NWA and WWF!

SHELTON MITCHELL
Clawson, MI

THE ULTIMATE MACHINE

I truly enjoyed Dave Rosenbaum's article on The Ultimate Warrior in the June 1990 issue ("What Made This Warrior The Ultimate Fighting Machine?"). I've been impressed with the Warrior's skills for the past two years, but I never realized what made him so

(Continued on page 48)

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#2 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '89

The Glory Days

Revenge was the theme of the 1989 Bash as NWA champ Ric Flair came back from a broken neck to wrestle former champ Terry Funk, and U.S. champ Lex Luger battled Rick Steamboat. Also: Sting vs. Muta; War Games; a battle of wits turns to a battle of fists as Paul E. Dangerously rumbles with Jim Cornette; plus much more.

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#3 WRESTLE WAR '89

Music City Showdown

Ric Flair's courageous effort in regaining the NWA belt from Rick Steamboat on May 7, 1989, in Nashville was voted Match of the Year—some called it the Match of the Decade! Also on this memorable card, Lex Luger battles Michael Hayes; Road Warriors clash with Mike Rotundo & Steve Williams; and more.

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#6 MONSTERS OF THE MAT Volume 7

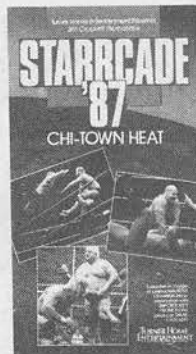
Hosted by Sgt. Slaughter, mat fans will experience action like never before! Get your ringside seat for all the spills and thrills as Ted DiBiase takes on Magnum T.A.; The Shepherders & Jack Victory meet The Fantastics & Terry Taylor; and Brett Sawyer battles Gustavo Mendoza.

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#7 WRESTLE WAR '90 Wild Thing

Lex Luger could have won the NWA World title from Ric Flair, but saving Sting from a crippling attack from the Andersons took priority! On this night, Luger showed the fans just what's inside the "Total Package." Also: Steiners vs. Andersons, Road Warriors vs. Skyscrapers, more.

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#8 STARRCADE '87

Chi-Town Heat

The hottest Thanksgiving Day in Windy City history! CAGE MATCH THRILLERS: Ric Flair challenges NWA champ Ronnie Garvin;

Dusty Rhodes takes on U.S. champ Lex Luger. PLUS: Road Warriors vs. Blanchard & Anderson; Koloff vs. Taylor; Rock 'n' Rolls vs. Midnight on a scaffold; Williams vs. Windham; Garvin, Hayes, & Sting vs. Gilbert, Zbyszko, & Steiner.

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#9 STARRCADE '86 The Sky-Walkers

So big it had to be held in two locations—The Omni in Atlanta and the Greensboro Coliseum in North Carolina. Highlights include: NWA champ Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff; Road Warriors vs. Midnight on a scaffold; "First Blood" match—Rhodes vs. Blanchard; Ron Garvin vs. Big (Bossman) Bubba; Rock 'n' Rolls vs. Andersons in cage; Jones vs. Valiant—hair vs. hair.

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#10 STARRCADE '88 True Gritt

The sixth annual Starrcade event, the first under the Ted Turner banner, thrilled a sellout crowd at The Scope in Virginia. Featured: Lex Luger's challenge of Ric Flair; Road Warriors vs. Sting & Rhodes; Windham vs. Bigelow; Rotundo vs. Rick Steiner; Midnight vs. Midnight; and more.

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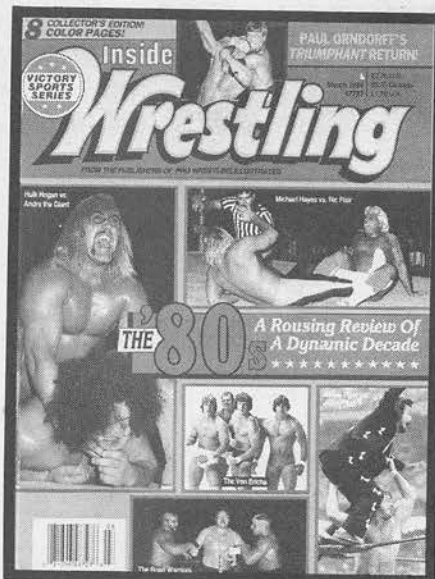
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 46)



The Ultimate Warrior tosses Randy Savage over the top rope. Reader Sam Tyrone writes that he has new appreciation for the Warrior's attributes.

good. Now, I have new appreciation for his killer instinct and desire to win.

Now that he's the WWF World champion, I can't see anyone even coming close to beating the Warrior ever again. Hulk Hogan's two title reigns are impressive, but I'm sure that Ultimate will eclipse his records before his career is through.

SAM TYRONE
 Bronx, NY

RATINGS RIOT

When I read the ratings in the June 1990 issue, I was shocked to see The Ultimate Warrior rated as the number 10 "Most Hated." The Warrior is one of my favorite wrestlers, and I don't see any reason why he's in that category. When I see him wrestle, I don't hear any boos!

But at the same time, Warrior was number three in the "Most Popular" rankings. Please put him in one category so I won't get confused!

CHRIS DeVAULT
 Shreveport, LA

JARRETT'S JIVE

I'm surprised your fine magazine gave so much space to that wimpy Jeff

Jarrett for the "Hotseat" interview in the June 1990 issue. Who needs to listen to him whine, wimper, and complain about the loss of his supposed "friends," Jerry Lawler and Billy Travis?

If you ask me, Lawler and Travis simply wised up. They realized that Jarrett is too small and untalented to ever be a major champion, so they abandoned him before he dragged them both down to his level of incompetence.

Jeff only got what he deserved.

TONY ROBERGE
 Dothan, AL

It's hard to find a man in this sport who is decent and a sportsman, but Jeff Jarrett certainly fills the bill. He may have fewer "friends" since Lawler and Travis so callously turned their backs on him, but he's gained scores of fans in his valiant battles against them.

Jarrett shouldn't fret about not being involved with creeps like Lawler anymore. Instead, he should be proud that he's his own man.

PETER METRANO
 Memphis, TN □

BACK ISSUES OF



Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of **INSIDE WRESTLING**, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.
May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.
June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.
February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.
March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.
April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
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October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
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August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
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July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlingmania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlingmania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Luger, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
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April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
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October 1989/Stories include: Hall & Pillman & Vicious, Hennig, Swats vs. Warriors, Rhodes.
November 1989/Stories include: Elizabeth, Sting, Luger, Paul E., Mascaras.
December 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry.
January 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase.
February 1990/Stories include: Warriors-Skyscrapers, Zenk, Rude-Piper.
April 1990/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer.
May 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate, Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA.
June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett.
July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 8)

Finally, Hogan has been WWF World champion for five of the past six years. He deserves a rematch.

Warrior vs. Rick Rude? Warrior vs. Curt Hennig? Hogan vs. Earthquake?

Apparently, the WWF is dead-set on boring us past the point of exhaustion. And we simply can't let that happen.

Add this one to Great Moments In Wrestling History. Subscribers to *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* saw it first. Here's the item from the April 23, 1990, edition of that newsletter's "Transactions" column:

RETURNED: To the acting world, Tom "Tiny" Lister Jr., known as Zeus when he wrestled in the WWF last year.

Now we can all hope he stays in Hollywood. Needless to say, his new movie, *Think Big*, figures to be a big bust. There just aren't that many people out there who want to see Tiny Lister films. And now that we know he's not so tough, he's basically a worthless joke.

But as long as he doesn't come back to wrestling, we'll all be happy. In fact, I'll go see *Think Big* five times and buy the video if it helps keep Zeus out of the wrestling ring.

May his motion picture career be a long and prosperous one.

Moments after Mr. Saito lost the AWA World title to Larry Zbyszko, the following conversation took place in Saito's dressing room. Just thought you might want to know about it.

REPORTER 1: Saito, do you regret turning good?

SAITO: No. And, as you shall see, I have not really changed.

REPORTER 2: Does that mean

we are about to see your rule-breaking side once again?

SAITO: I have no secrets. You have seen me the way I really am. I am no longer friends with Zbyszko. I no longer break rules and join with bad people. But I am the same wrestler. Do not blame what happened on the way I am.

during this match. I do not wish to wrestle again with Bockwinkel as referee.

REPORTER 3: Who will be the next AWA World champion?

SAITO: I do not know. I do not care. If it is me, fine. But Zbyszko will not last for long. It will not be Nikita Koloff, I do not think. But there are many surprises in store



WWF President Jack Tunney's decision to disallow a Hulk Hogan-Ultimate Warrior rematch is ludicrous, in Dave Rosenbaum's opinion.

REPORTER 1: Do you think the outcome of this match was correct?

SAITO: Correct? I do not know how you mean. Zbyszko complained about Japanese officials and fans. All I know is that Japanese people are honorable. I am not going to complain about Nick Bockwinkel, but let me say this: Bockwinkel hates Zbyszko, but there was a time that he hated me, too. We had many arguments

for Zbyszko.

It's hard to say what Saito had on his mind during this conversation. Maybe he was just reacting to the shock of losing to Zbyszko. We all know, however, that Saito has it in him to go back to his old ways.

What are these "many surprises" Saito has in store? What did he mean when he said, "I have not changed"?

The Zbyszko-Saito-Koloff triangle is going to make the AWA a very interesting place over the next few months. □

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February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. Rick Martel, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. Jimmy Valiant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blondes, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan. Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. Randy Savage, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. Sting, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan. Four Horsemen, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth, Warriors, Sting.

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April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner. Savage, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. Hogan vs. Savage, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

July 1989/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. Steamboat, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

August 1989/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. Hogan, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

October 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Rude. Luger vs. Hogan, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

November 1989/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. Rhodes, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

December 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jimmy Snuka. Luger, Vicious, Muta, Sting, Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

January 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sid Vicious. Ultimate, Cornette, Ross, Kerry.

February 1990/COLOR PINUP: Bret Hart. Lex Luger, Hogan, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams, Woman.

April 1990/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. Ric Flair, Hennig vs. Hogan, Sting, Rockers, Lawler.

May 1990/COLOR PINUP: The Great Muta. Hulk Hogan, Skyscrapers, R&R Express, Piper, Embry.

June 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sting. Hogan vs. Warrior, R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Arn vs. Sawyer.

July 1990/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. Lex Luger, Beefcake, Skyscrapers, Heenan, Saito, referees.

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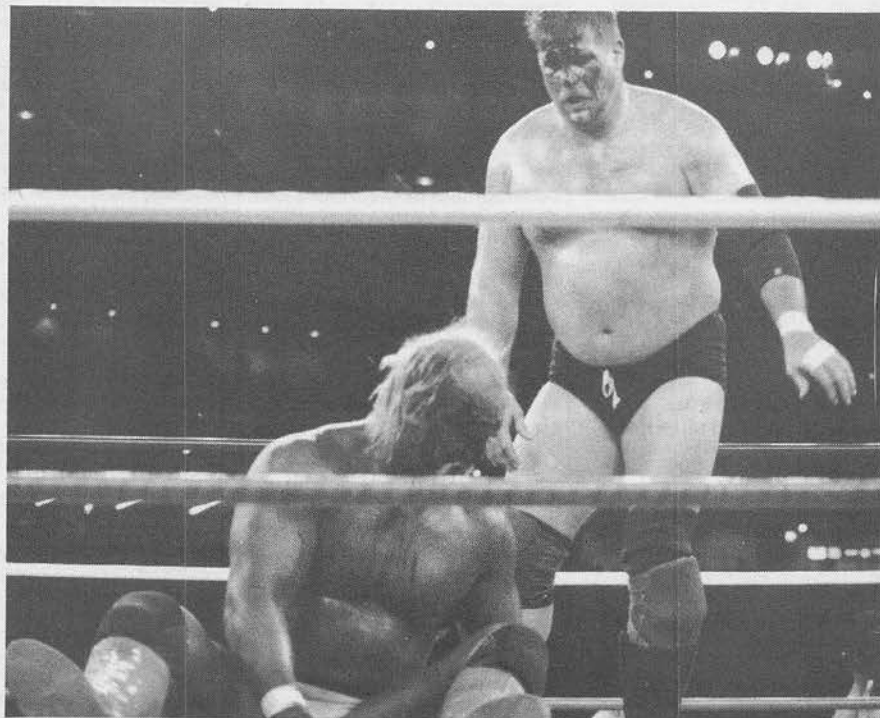
THE INSIDER (Continued from page 14)

I would have thought that, once through Hansen's shredder, Hogan would beg for two Ultimate Warriors with an Earthquake on the side. I would have guessed that Hogan, who was fed a steady diet of WWF appetizers during his overblown title reign, would wither and die in the presence of a real international superstar.

itch, or razor burn; don't pin the pin on gingivitis, athlete's foot, croup, arthritis, or incontinence.

Hansen was healthy. Think about it: Hogan pinned a healthy Hansen.

Hulk Hogan kicked Stan Hansen's butt! That's a fact Hansen and I and you must live with the rest of our lives.



Both Hogan and Hansen bled profusely, but in the end Hogan came out with the pinfall victory. Ellner, a longtime Hogan detractor, gives his respect grudgingly.

Check it out, sports fans: Hogan pinned Hansen. No controversy. No griping, squealing, or moaning. No twin referees or unconscious officials. No videotape brouhahas.

Hogan pinned Hansen after 12 minutes 30 seconds of stunning action in front of over 53,000 screaming witnesses. Hogan pinned Hansen without any excuses or subterfuge. Don't blame headaches—Hansen's never had one. Leave stomach pains out of it—Hansen's customary prematch bowl of chili was cooked according to usual specifications. There was no hangnail, frostbite, jock

The hard part is finding explanations.

First—and this I mean sincerely—let me thank the penny-pinching editors of *Inside Wrestling* for *not* sending me to Japan to cover this match. When the pairing was announced, I begged Saks and Peters for permission to go.

"No way, it's much too expensive," Saks sneered.

"You can read the fax reports from our Japanese correspondents and watch the films later," said Peters. "And besides, the Japanese may misinterpret some of the things you say. We don't want to start an international incident."

The case was closed before it had really been opened.

Of course, my report of the match not yet fought was already written:

Thirty seconds over Tokyo is how long it took ex-wrestler Hulk Hogan to land after Stan Hansen propelled him into the upper deck of the Tokyo Egg Dome. Hogan, who announced his retirement on the way to the hospital, sustained 24 broken bones, believed to be a match record . . .

In the end, of course, Saks and Peters were right. In Tokyo bars I would have preached an unending stream of Hansen gospel to visiting journalists, no doubt backing my talk with money and defending my words—especially after a few double sakis—with fists.

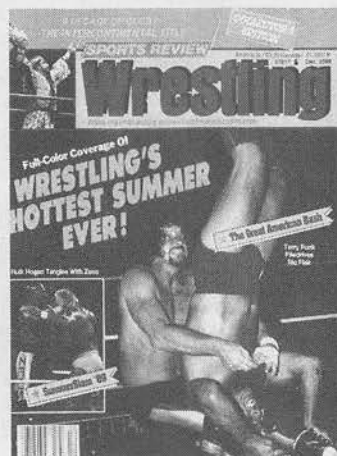
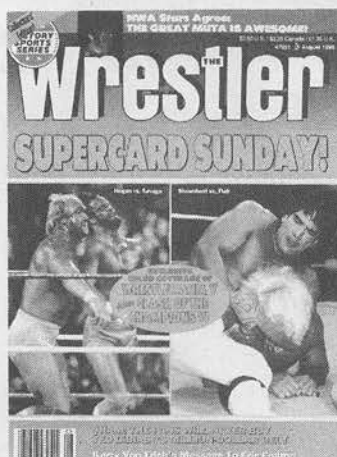
And I would have left Japan broke and battered, the journalistic joke of two continents. Instead, I stayed home and, through a live telephone feed, listened with mounting horror, astonishment, and respect as Hogan met Hansen's every challenge, matched him punch for bloody punch till just before the 12:30 mark when he ducked a Hansen clothesline, responded with one of his own, and pinned the butcher of Brazos Valley.

In last month's "Off The Top Rope" (my heavily criticized column in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*), in the glow of the WrestleMania VI main-event aftermath, I warned readers that Hogan-bashing may go the way of junk bonds and unrecyclable baby diapers.

I may not embrace Hulkamania, and I'll certainly never endorse Hogan's hysterical fan-pandering, but it's damn-near impossible to ignore Hogan's performance in Tokyo. His victory over Hansen, someone who I have more than once praised as the best pure brawler in wrestling history, proves that behind the pose, the pythons, and the tan lies a wrestler with heart, courage, and—damn it all, yes—skill. ☐

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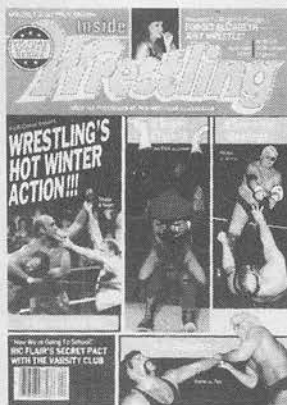


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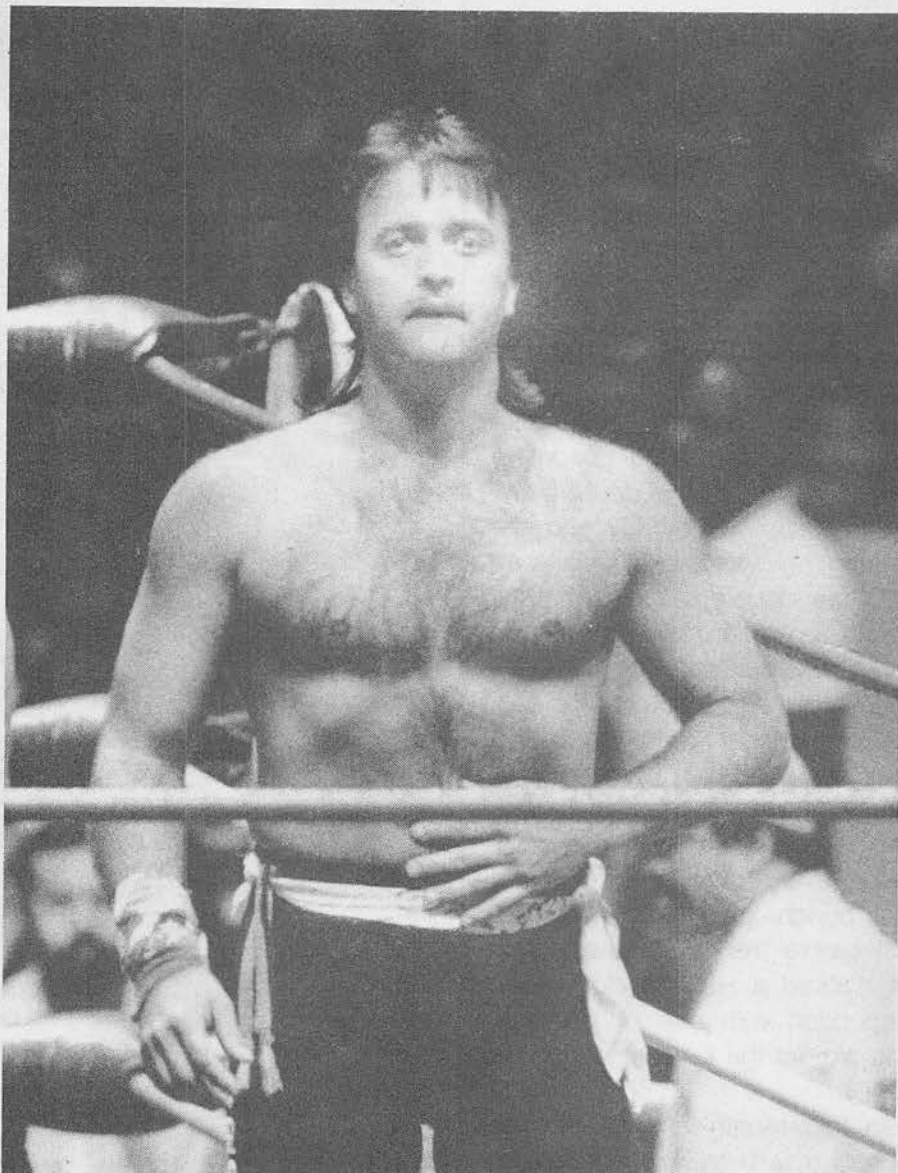
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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)



Robert Gibson says people who think he gets by on looks alone don't know what they're talking about. He calls their criticisms a symptom of jealousy.

still being cheered—Beefcake, Terry Taylor, Jannetty, Michaels—every wrestler getting by with capped teeth and long hair. They're bums, a disgrace to the sport. Morton and Gibson should be hung by their bandanas.

"It's about time wrestling fans smartened up enough to distinguish between good looks and skill," Ellner continued. "Sometimes the two traits appear together. Rick Steamboat is skilled. So are Sting, Roddy Piper, and Rick Rude, and they are all matinee-idol handsome. But we have been too generous with others. Tommy

Rich is a fat, bloated powder puff. Thank God they ran the Simpsons out of Texas. They were the worst. Weak, without soul, no heart, no skills, just long hair. The only strong thing about them was their cheekbones."

Ellner was shifting gears and, as his mouth gets excellent gas mileage, he could have gone on for hours. The point is well-taken, however. On this night in the Meadowlands, Zenk and Gibson were roundly booed by a hostile audience. At one point in their match against The Freebirds, Michael Hayes and Jimmy Garvin

pulverized Zenk into the mat as many fans rose to their feet and applauded.

"Ever since The Road Warriors began attracting fans, I think the lines between good and bad have become permanently blurred," offered Associate Editor Bob Smith. "Fans recognize excellence these days and care little in what kind of package it's delivered."

Does this mean it's open season on pretty boys?

"If all I had were good looks, I'd have been six feet in the ground long ago," answered an angry Robert Gibson. "A sweet smile doesn't deflect a forearm. A little black book won't block a dropkick. People are just jealous. The idea that a wrestler can get by on looks is an absurd concept. I do my talking in the ring with my skills, not in the mirror with my smile."

"Face it, faces sell seats," Ellner responds. "A promoter finds some good-looking stud who doesn't make a complete fool of himself in the ring and pushes him because the fans love him. That's when the garbage starts. Referees have been protecting The Rock 'n' Roll Express since they broke in. Personally, I'd rather have my sister date a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle than Gibson or Morton."

Before I'm completely out of space, allow me to briefly return to the column's beginning and question number one.

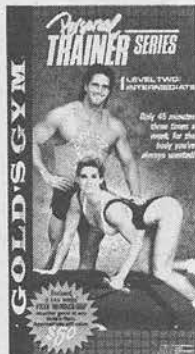
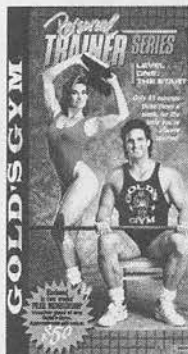
"The U.S. champion is the automatic number-one contender for the NWA title," explains NWA Executive Vice President Jim Herd. "As long as Luger holds the U.S. belt, he will continue to receive title matches. Will he ever win the title? Only time will tell."

Oh, and question number two?

According to Woman's personal shopper, the feisty manager uses odor eaters in all her expensive shoes. I guess Anderson must have connected. ☐

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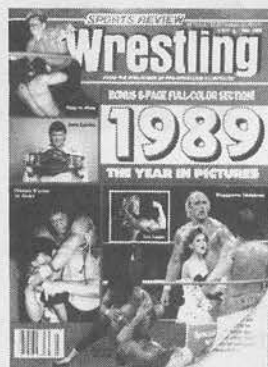
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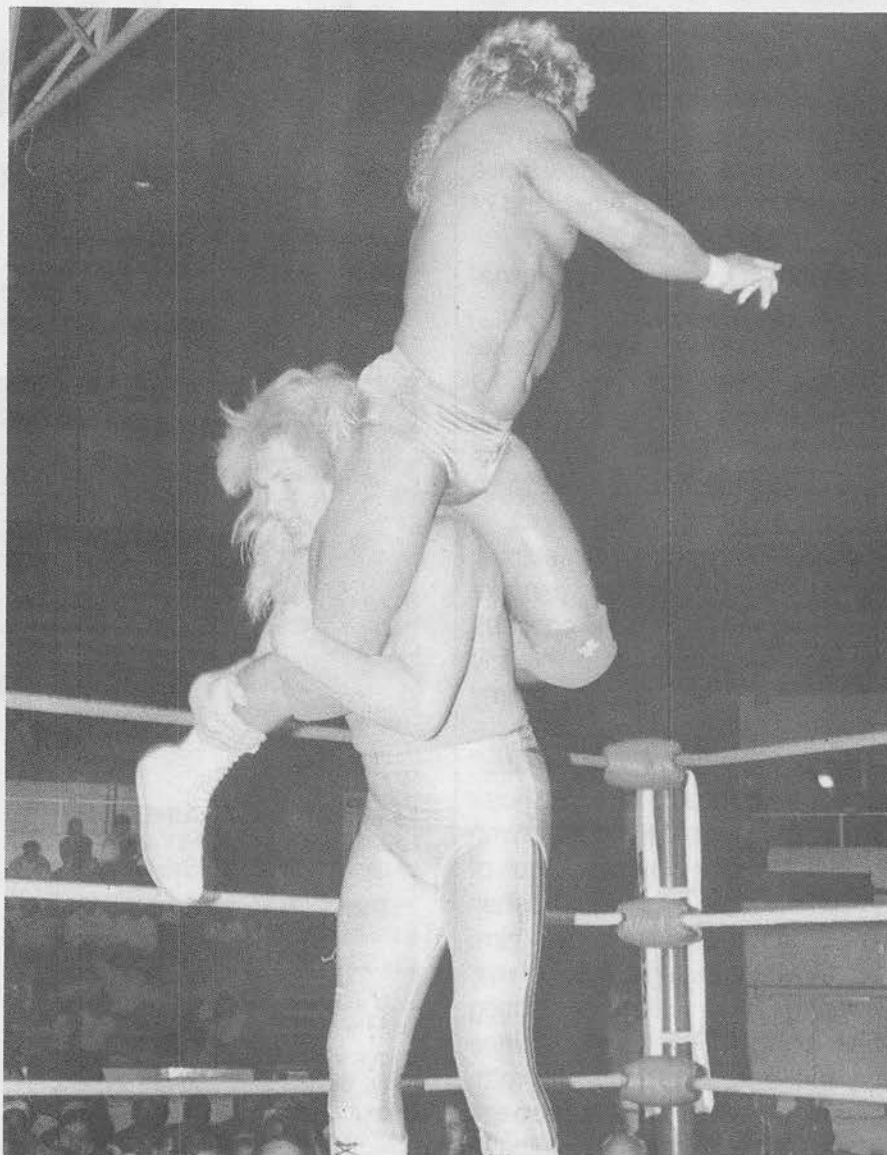
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PILLMAN & ZENK

(Continued from page 29)



Pillman is about to take down Eaton. Pillman and Zenk insist they can go after singles belts while defending their tag title, but the task will be difficult.

that there's no way out. It's you against him with no partners, no nothing. Then, when the match is over, win or lose it's an exhilarating feeling."

It certainly sounds as if Pillman has more than the U.S. tag title on his mind. And Zenk doesn't blame him.

"We're young and talented, both of us, and we have to pursue our goals," he said. "Being U.S. tag champs is something to be proud of, and that's not about to change. The thing is, we *both* want to branch out."

The NWA is giving them that opportunity. Singles matches have been sprinkled liberally among their tag team title defenses. The questions, of course, remain:

Will their championship ambitions cause a rift? Can a man hold one title and successfully go after another at the same time? Are Pillman and Zenk both ignoring their tag team strengths?

Pillman vs. Flair and Zenk vs. Luger are outstanding matchups. But are they really worth the sacrifice of a great championship tag team? ☐

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May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!
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 March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
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HULK HOGAN

(Continued from page 31)

to The Ultimate Warrior at WrestleMania VI, however, something changed.

It was the first time since 1981 that he was cleanly pinned. (Forget that ridiculous title "loss" to Andre the Giant in 1988.) It was also the first time in six years that he was not clearly the best man in the WWF.

Hulk Hogan is no longer the king of the WWF. He is no longer the standard, the state of the art, the symbol of invincibility. The torch has been passed ... and now it's time for the "Hulkster" to move on.

It is the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do. And if Hogan retires with honor and integrity, he would leave us with these great memories as his final legacy:

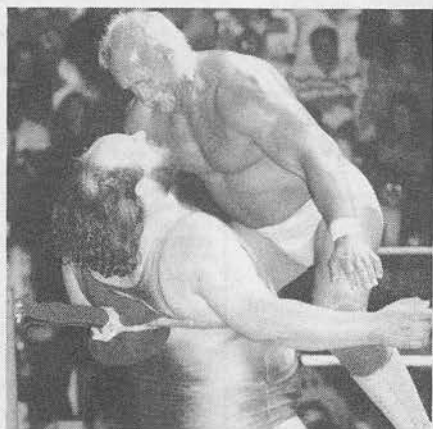
- A gallant battle at WrestleMania VI. Against a competitor far younger and perhaps stronger, Hogan held his own for over 20 minutes in a magnificent match, arguably the greatest WrestleMania main event of all time.

- A heartwarming display of sportsmanship in defeat. Instead of complaining and crying, Hogan handed the WWF World title belt to the Warrior and raised his arm in victory. He then left the ring and allowed the Warrior to celebrate on his own. Hogan didn't steal the Warrior's moment of glory.

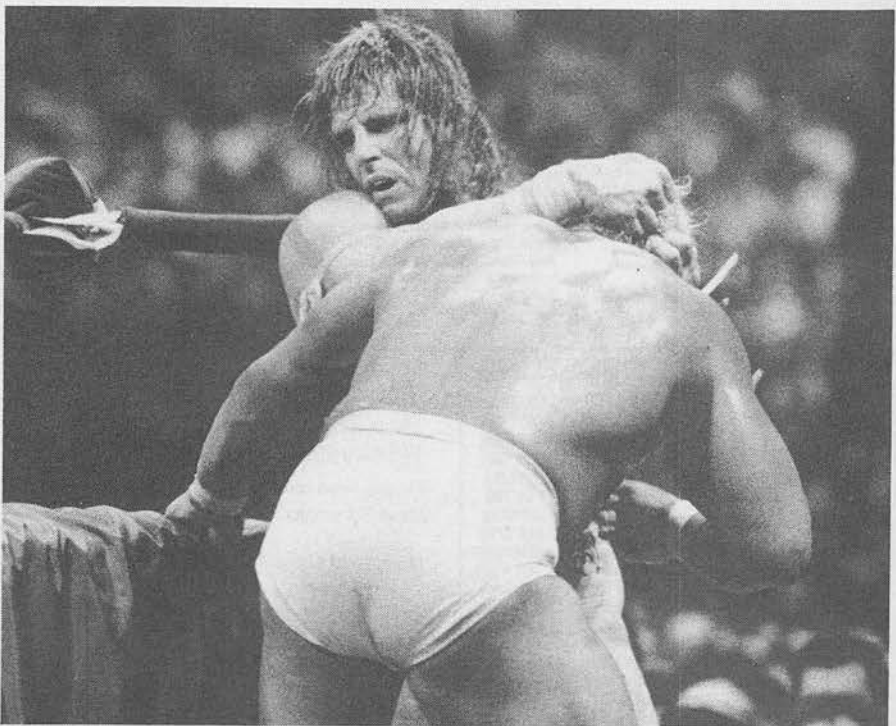
- A history-making moment of mutual respect. Just as he was to be wheeled back to the dressing room, Hogan saluted the new champion. He passed the torch in honorable fashion. He showed a side of himself we never knew existed: the Hogan that can do the right thing in defeat.

Can he come back and regain the WWF World title? Probably. Is it worth the effort? Probably not.

Hogan has accomplished everything. Is being a three-time WWF



Hogan says he'll battle Earthquake (left, top left, and above) until he vanquishes him, but if the "Hulkster" keeps wrestling long past the WrestleMania VI loss to Warrior (below), he risks obliterating his own legend.



World champion that much of an improvement over being two-time champion? We know what Hogan can do; we've seen it for over a

decade. We know what he stands for; we've seen that, too.

Now, we—and Hogan—must deal with the reality that the

"Hulkster" is headed for the downside of his career. It happens to everyone. At some point, it had to happen to Hogan.

Verne Gagne was not great forever. Bruno Sammartino finally stepped aside. Lou Thesz had to realize at one point that active competition is no longer feasible.

Hogan, however, has a choice. He doesn't *have* to hang on; he has options. He could easily become a TV or movie star. He is a celebrity of the highest magnitude. People know and respect him.

Consider Muhammad Ali: He made a movie or two, but stuck to his main love—boxing. His repeated comebacks took The Mouth That Roared and turned it into The Mouth That Mumbles. Ali suffers from Parkinson's syndrome and says it is not a result of his taking too many punches; conventional wisdom says otherwise.

Consider Roberto Duran, who stuck around too long. He loved boxing so much, retirement was out of the question. When he stepped into the ring against Sugar Ray Leonard for a third time, the humiliation was painful to see.

Consider George Foreman: He is boxing's answer to Buddy Rose. True, he has several admirable qualities, but he is also the butt of many jokes. He deserves better. He is a former champion.

This shouldn't happen to Hogan. It doesn't have to. Hogan's millions of fans won't desert him when he retires. They will follow him wherever he goes. They will be left with the memories, the matches, and the honorable actions. They will make the adjustment of rooting for Hulk Hogan, movie star, after spending years rooting for Hulk Hogan, wrestler.

And the final taste that should be left in the fans' mouths is of the WrestleMania VI aftermath, a magnificent example of what "Hulkamania" was all about.

And always will be. ☐

BACK ISSUES

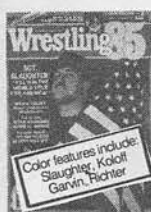
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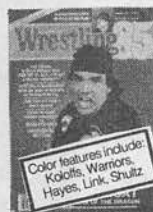
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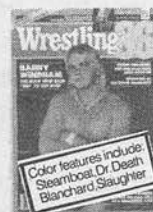
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☐ WINTER/85



☐ SPRING/86



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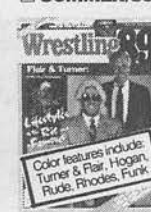
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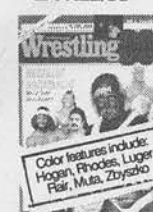
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☐ FALL/89



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☐ SUMMER/90

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ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(Continued from page 33)

tures of defending a world title over the long haul.

"Unless he's changed, I don't think he has the mental discipline," Sting said. "For one thing, he acts too much on impulse. He doesn't plan things out. That's why he lost the Intercontinental belt to Rick Rude. In fact, he often has trouble against inferior opponents because his mind never caught up to his body."

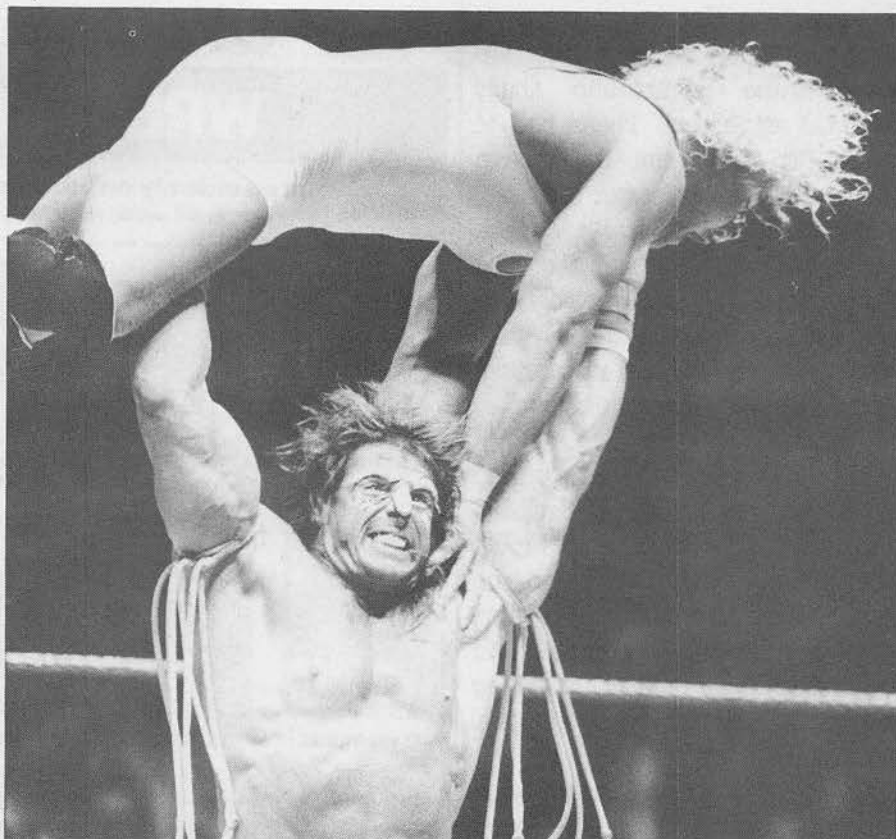
Hogan, however, always seemed to have a game plan for victory. He knew his opponents' strengths and weaknesses. He knew who the new stars were. Each match was a learning experience. Many challengers gave Hogan a run for his money in their first match, but Hogan ultimately proved to be unbeatable.

"That's the way all the great stars are," said former WWF and NWA World champion Buddy Rogers. "I can't tell you how many times I almost got beaten in my first match against a guy, but by the third or fourth time he was a piece of cake."

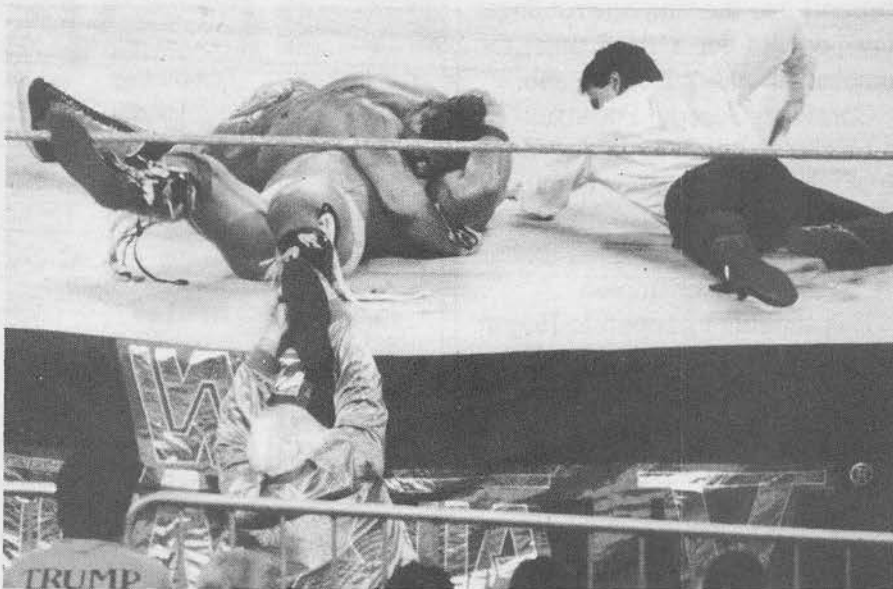
The Warrior is different. For example, he easily handled Rude in the beginning, but eventually lost the I-C belt at WrestleMania V. The Warrior regained the belt at SummerSlam '89, but he had already proven himself beatable.

Victories over Andre the Giant were impressive, but Andre was years past his prime and apparently suffering from serious injuries during those matches. The Warrior's multiple 30-second wins against Andre are not necessarily the stuff of a world title reign.

And remember what Thesz pointed out: Great reigns usually aren't followed by great reigns. In this case, the Warrior and Hogan are very similar, but Hogan was the original. He was the strongman everybody copied.



Warrior may be undefeated against Hennig (above), but he did lose the Intercontinental title to Rude at WrestleMania V (below). Rude could spoil Warrior's success.



And copies are rarely as good as the original.

Even at WrestleMania VI, the Warrior struggled mightily for his win. If not for an unconscious referee, the Warrior might not have won the title at all.

There are other factors to

consider:

- Hogan is a much better scientific wrestler than the Warrior.

- The Warrior hasn't shown the ability to develop new moves and strategies.

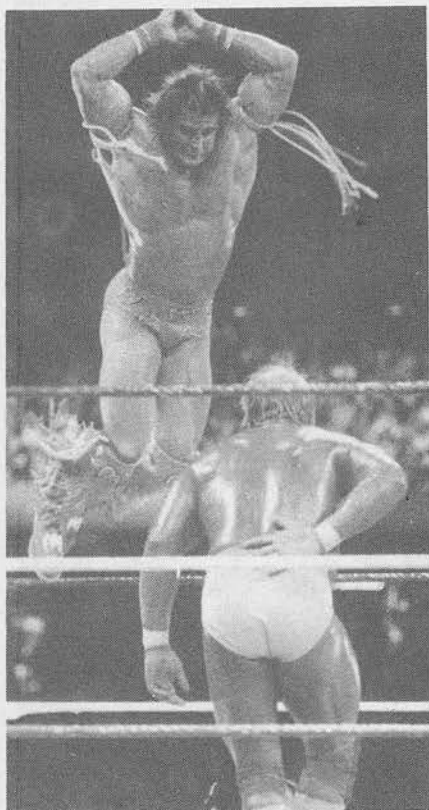
- The Warrior is not a thinking wrestler. He is easily outsmarted,

especially by wrestlers with intelligent managers.

And, of course, the comparisons will always be there. People will always compare the Warrior to Hogan. Maybe that's unfair.

In fact, maybe this entire story is unfair. Maybe it's just not right to say that the Warrior isn't the second coming of Hulk Hogan. After all, he just wants to be the first coming of The Ultimate Warrior.

Wrestling has, indeed, entered a new era. In all likelihood, Hogan never again will be world champion. The Warrior might hold the belt for a long time.



Warrior may have beaten Hogan once, but that hasn't settled the question: Who is the better man?

That's fine. But let's cut out the comparisons. Let's let Hogan be Hogan and the Warrior be the Warrior.

The greatness of one has been established.

The greatness of the other is yet to be. And if he is, indeed, great, he should be able to prove it—without suffering under the considerable shadow of the legend of the "Hulkster." ☐

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 Wrestling's Greatest Finishing Moves <input type="checkbox"/> SUMMER/85	 Color Action Gallery: Bruiser Brody <input type="checkbox"/> FALL/86	 Color Action Gallery: Hulk Hogan <input type="checkbox"/> SPRING/87	 Color Action Gallery: Cage Match Fury <input type="checkbox"/> SUMMER/87	 Color Action Gallery: Rick Steamboat <input type="checkbox"/> FALL/87
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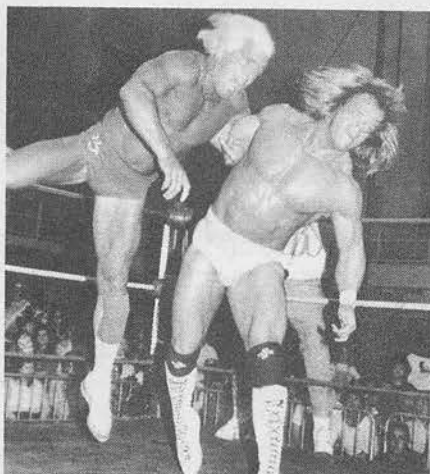
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LEX LUGER

(Continued from page 35)



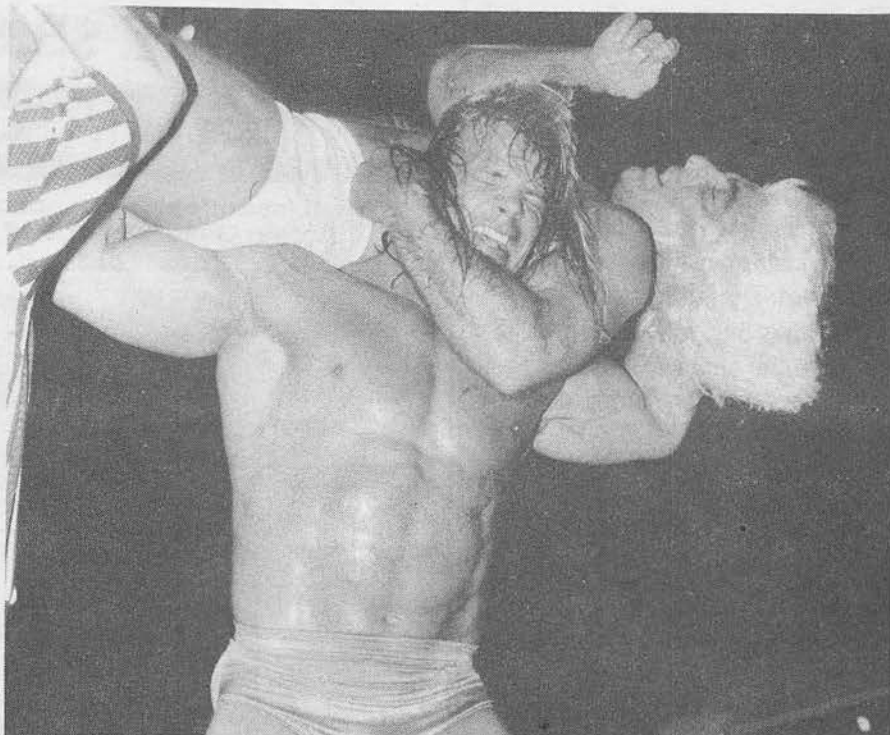
The sport's experts agree with Luger's assessment. There was a time when Flair vowed to never again wrestle Luger, but those days are long gone. Maybe Luger needs Flair, but Flair needs Luger more.

"Flair would love to beat Luger cleanly, but he can't," NWA broadcaster Jim Ross said. "He looks across the ring, sees this human being that's superior to him in every way, and it kills him. With every year, Luger gets better and Flair just gets older. Sure, Flair's a great competitor and he has a great mind, but he's been outpsyched. It's amazing."

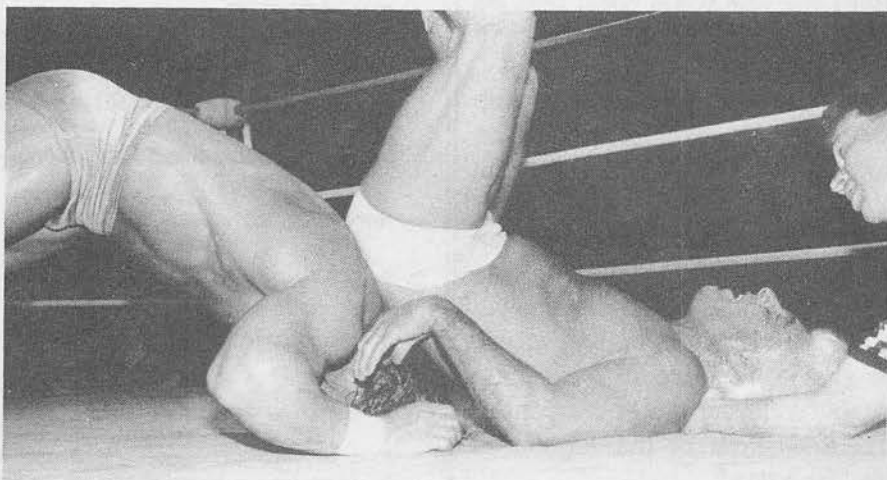
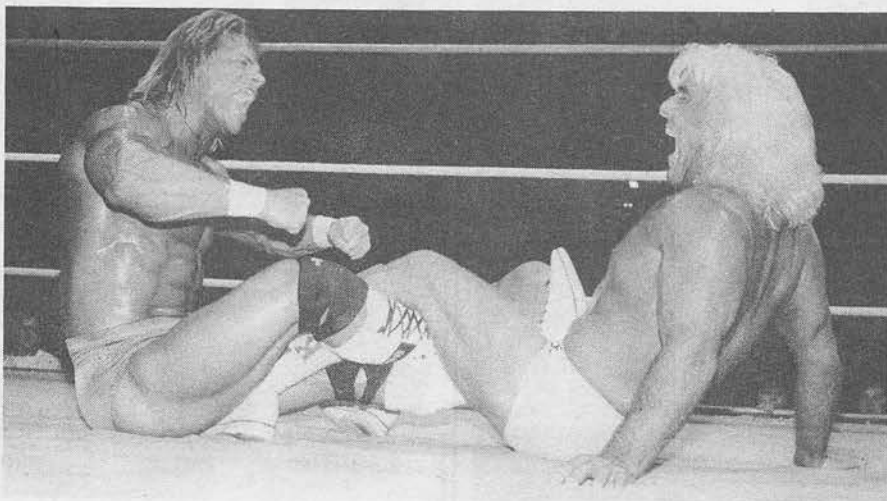
"Flair's running out of steam," NWA expert Donald Wayne said. "Luger is superior in every way, but Flair manages to escape with his usual dirty tricks. One day, though, Flair's going to run out of tricks and Luger will win the title. Flair knows this, but he can't get out of these title matches. I don't even think he wants to."

Over the past few years, Luger has improved as a wrestler in every respect. He is stronger, wiser, and has more ability than the Luger who challenged Flair for the title in Florida in 1986. Flair, as Ross pointed out, is still an outstanding wrestler, but the years of difficult title defenses have worn him down.

"It's really just luck, you know," Sting said. "From my point of view, Flair is scratching the bottom of the barrel. He's reaching for help, but he's running out of alternatives. He knows



These photos demonstrate Luger's domination over Flair in several aspects of the sport, but the champion manages to hang on to his title.



this. He's running scared because he knows time's running out."

Of course, this has been said many times before. Flair has the uncanny, almost inexplicable ability to find new ways to win. There are the Horsemen, of course, and there is Woman, Flair's adviser. They're always there to lend a helping hand.

Then there's Flair's considerable wrestling ability. He is, arguably, the greatest all-around wrestler of all time. Luger is a superhuman in many ways, but he does not match up to the Flair of old.

"That's just the point," Mike Rundo said. "Luger doesn't *have* to match up to the Flair of old. Today's Flair does, but often he can't. And today's Flair barely matches up to the current Luger. It's a psych job, and that's where Luger has Flair beat. It's only a matter of time."

Exactly. Flair could easily call an end to the Luger matches, but he knows what that would mean: a legend tarnished by embarrassment, and by charges that he is avoiding the top contender. Luger is, after all, the U.S. champion and, with Sting on the sidelines, the greatest threat to Flair's title.

"The funny thing is that if I was around, he'd be able to wrestle Luger at least half as often," Sting said. "Instead, Luger is getting all these chances. I think a wrestler has a better chance against two men 20 times each than against one man 40 times. Flair doesn't get a break. It's just Luger, Luger, Luger."

Until his luck runs out.

Meanwhile, Flair tells the world he's better than Luger. He struts his stuff and talks about his amazing wrestling skills.

He repeatedly challenges Luger . . . then runs and hides when the match finally happens. Flair always relied on outside interference to some degree, but now he relies on it more than ever.

The old Flair has been crushed. The new Luger is about to reign.

Luger is soaring . . . Flair is a broken man. And it's just a matter of time before his sixth World championship reign crumbles along with him. □

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
NWA World champion
- 2—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
WWF World champion
- 3—**HULK HOGAN**
No. 3 contender: WWF title

- 4—**LEX LUGER**
U.S. champion
- 5—**JERRY LAWLER**
USWA champion
- 6—**RICK RUDE**
No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 7—**CURT HENNIG**
WWF Intercontinental champion

- 8—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
AWA World champion
- 9—**KERRY VON ERICH**
USWA Texas champion
- 10—**BILL DUNDEE**
USWA Southwestern champion
- 11—**DUSTY RHODES**
No. 5 contender: WWF title

- 12—**TONY ATLAS**
ICW champion
- 13—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
No. 1 contender: AWA title
- 14—**STEVE KEIRN**
PWF champion
- 15—**BRYAN ADAMS**
Pacific Northwest champion

NWA

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 3—**NORMAN**
380, Saginaw, MI

- 4—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 5—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
226, Cincinnati, OH
- 6—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
- 7—**TOMMY RICH**
248, Hendersonville, TN

- 8—**SAMOAN SAVAGE**
264, Samoa
- 9—**CACTUS JACK**
247, Truth or Cons., NM
- 10—**BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 11—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Khartoum, Sudan

- 12—**MARK CALLOUS**
320, Dallas, TX
- 13—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 14—**SAMOAN SAMU**
260, Samoa
- 15—**RANGER ROSS**
225, Acworth, GA

WWF

- 1—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 2—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN

- 4—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 5—**EARTHQUAKE**
462, Montreal, Quebec
- 6—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 7—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL

- 8—**TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 9—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec, City, Quebec
- 10—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 11—**BIG BOSSMAN**
348, Cobb County, GA

- 12—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
- 13—**THE BARBARIAN**
295, New York, NY
- 14—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 15—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY

AWA

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 3—**MR. SAITO**
247, Tokyo, Japan

- 4—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
- 5—**JOHN NORD**
316, Bozeman, MT
- 6—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 7—**D.J. PETERSON**
245, St. Joseph, MO

- 8—**COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, S. Africa
- 9—**JONNIE STEWART**
242, Pacific Palisades, CA
- 10—**TOMMY JAMMER**
265, St. Joseph, MO
- 11—**THE TROOPER**
243, Charlotte, NC

- 12—**BARON VON RASCHKE**
271, Berlin, Germany
- 13—**THE RUSSIAN BRUTE**
285, Moscow, Russia
- 14—**BRAD RHEINGANS**
248, Appleton, MN
- 15—**CURTIS HUGHES**
308, Kansas City, KS

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3—**LEX LUGER**
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated

- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 5—**STING**
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 6—**NORMAN**
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 7—**BIG BOSSMAN**
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular

- 8—**JAKE ROBERTS**
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular
- 9—**ERIC EMBRY**
Last month: unrated
- 10—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
Last month: unrated
- 11—**KERRY VON ERICH**
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

- 12—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
Last month: No. 14 Most Popular
- 13—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular
- 14—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
Last month: unrated
- 15—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
Last month: No. 15 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 2—**EARTHQUAKE**
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 3—**RICK RUDE**
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated

- 4—**JERRY LAWLER**
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 5—**CURT HENNIG**
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 6—**RICK MARTEL**
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
- 7—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated

- 8—**TED DIBIASE**
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 9—**LANNY POFFO**
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
- 10—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
Last month: unrated
- 11—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
Last month: unrated

- 12—**RANDY SAVAGE**
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 13—**TONY ATLAS**
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated
- 14—**BAD NEWS BROWN**
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated
- 15—**MARK CALLOUS**
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
NWA World tag team champions
- 2—**DEMOLITION**
WWF World tag team champions
- 3—**BRIAN PILLMAN & TOM ZENK**
U.S. tag team champions
- 4—**DOOM**
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 5—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title

- 6—**THE HART FOUNDATION**
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 7—**THE ROCKERS**
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 8—**MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM**
AWA World tag team champions
- 9—**REX KING & STEVE DOLL**
USWA tag team champions
- 10—**JEFF WARNER & ART BARR**
PNW tag team champions

- 11—**THE ORIENT EXPRESS**
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 12—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
- 13—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag team title
- 14—**THE BUSHWHACKERS**
No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 15—**GREG VALENTINE & HONKY TONK MAN**
No. 5 contenders: WWF tag team title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended April 27, 1990

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

* ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TIGER MASK & KENTA KOBASHI

(April 9, 1990; from Doug Furnas & Dan Kroffat; Okayama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE WILLIAMS & TERRY GORDY

(March 6, 1989; from Stan Hansen & Genichiro Tenryu; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUKO NISHIWAKI

(January 1, 1990; elimination final over Bull Nakano; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYOTA

(November 18, 1989; tournament final over Mika Tekahashi; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

GRIZZLY IWAMOTO & AJA KONG

(December 9, 1989; from Yumiko Hotta & Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

* AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO

(April 8, 1990; from Mr. Saito; St. Paul, MN)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE DESTRUCTION CREW

(October 1, 1989; tournament final over Greg Gagne & Paul Diamond; Rochester, MN)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE

(December 6, 1989; tournament match over Judy Martin; Toronto, Ontario)

ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(February 11, 1989; from Joe Savoldi; Presque Isle, ME)

* ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE UNDERTAKERS

(March 31, 1990; tournament final over Phil Apollo & Eric Sbracchia; Charlton, MA)

IWGP CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(August 10, 1989; from Riki Choshu; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MASA SAITO & SHINYA HASHIMOTO

(September 20, 1989; from Riki Choshu & Takayuki Izuki; Osaka, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THUNDER RIGER

(January 31, 1990; from Naoki Sano; Osaka, Japan)

LPWA CHAMPION: SUSAN SEXTON

(by LPWA officials' decision)

NWA TV CHAMPION: ARN ANDERSON

(January 2, 1990; from The Great Muta; Gainesville, GA)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(May 7, 1989; from Rick Steamboat; Nashville, TN)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER

(November 1, 1989; from Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin; Atlanta, GA)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: BRYAN ADAMS

(April 21, 1990; tournament final over Larry Oliver; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JEFF WARNER & ART BARR

(March 31, 1990; tournament final over Bryan Adams & The Grappler; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TV CHAMPION: SCOTTY THE BODY

(March 17, 1990; from Ricky Santana; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

* PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

STEVE WILLIAMS & TERRY GORDY

(April 9, 1990; from Genichiro Tenryu & Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

PWF (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN

(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

* PWF (FLORIDA) TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

ROBERT FULLER & KENDALL WINDHAM

(April 12, 1990; from Brian Knobbs & Hurricane Walker; Tampa, FL)

PWF (FLORIDA) LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JIM BACKLUND

(February 11, 1990; tournament final victory; Las Vegas, NV)

U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(May 22, 1989; from Michael Hayes; Bluefield, WV)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRIAN PILLMAN & TOM ZENK

(February 12, 1990; tournament final over Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin; Rainsville, AL)

USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(January 8, 1990; from King Cobra; Memphis, TN)

USWA SOUTHWESTERN CHAMPION: BILL DUNDEE

(November 19, 1989; from Dirty White Boy; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: REX KING & STEVE DOLL

(February 6, 1990; from Robert Fuller & Brian Lee; Louisville, KY)

USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: KERRY VON ERICH

(January 5, 1990; from Jerry Lawler; Dallas, TX)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: HARLEY RACE

(January 6, 1990; from Miguel Perez Jr; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: INVADER I & IV

(March 10, 1990; tournament final over The Mercenaries; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EDDIE WATTS

(January 27, 1990; from Super Medic; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ

(January 13, 1990; from Invader I; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SUPER MEDICS

(March 31, 1990; from The Mercenaries; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(March 31, 1990; from Abdullah the Butcher; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

* WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CURT HENNIG

(April 23, 1990; tournament final over Tito Santana; Austin, TX)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(April 1, 1990; from Hulk Hogan; Toronto, Ontario)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION

(April 1, 1990; from Andre the Giant & Haku; Toronto, Ontario)

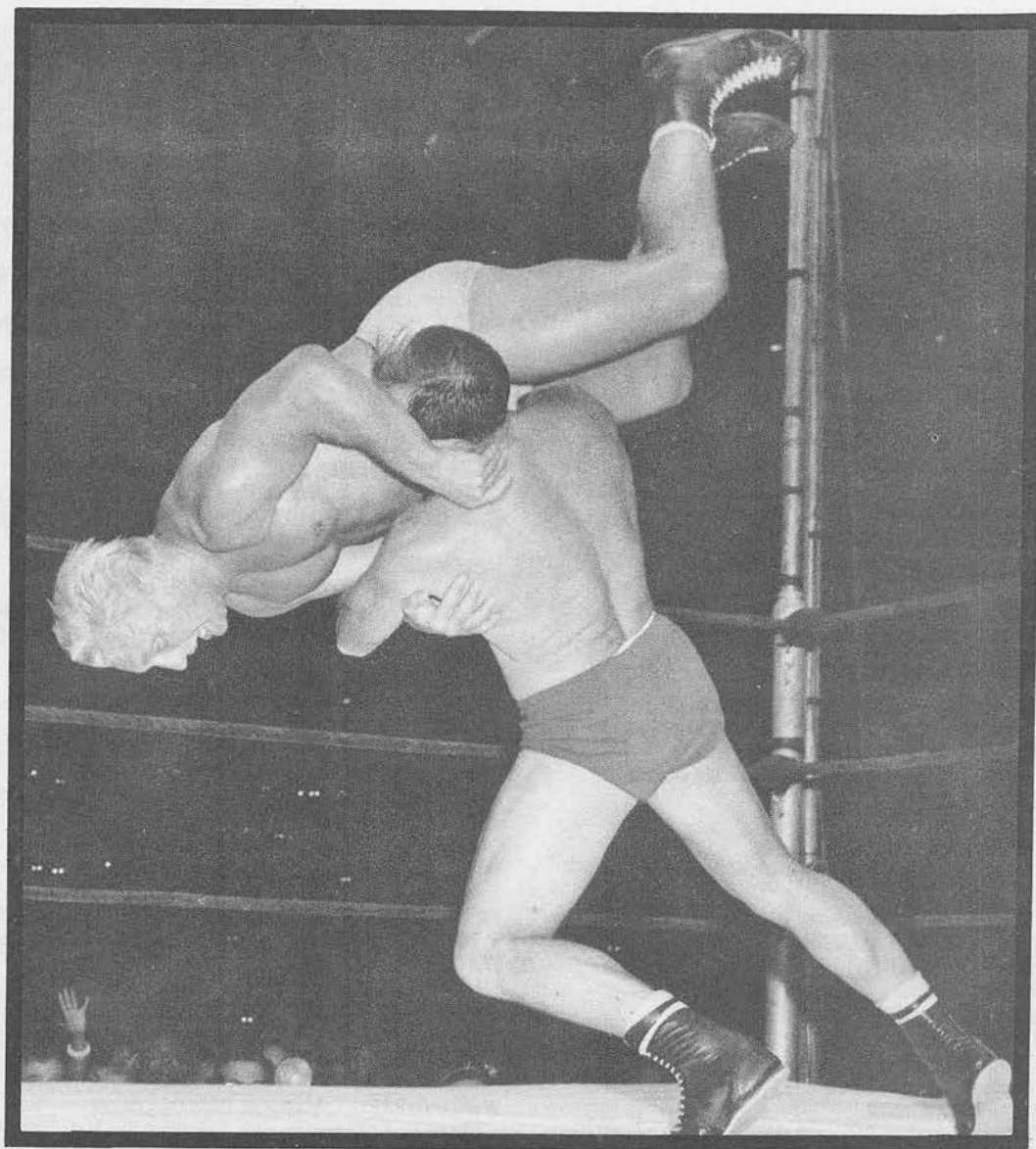
WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

(October 7, 1988; from Sheri Martel; Paris, France)

Blast From The Past

This Month In Wrestling History

"THE PASSING OF THE TORCH"



BUDDY ROGERS vs. PAT O'CONNOR

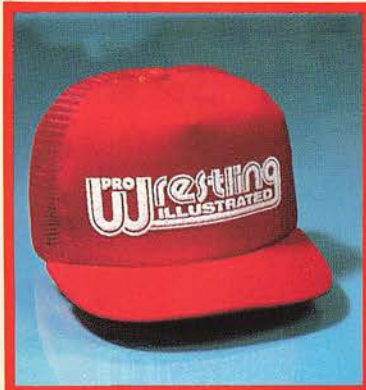
June 30, 1961

In 1961, many fans were wondering whether anyone could beat NWA World champion Pat O'Connor. It had been more than two years since the Irish fan favorite defeated Dick Hutton to win the belt in 1959, and it looked as if O'Connor would go many more years before being defeated. Buddy Rogers, however, had other plans. When the original "Nature Boy" challenged O'Connor to a title match, demand to see the bout was so strong that the event was held at Chicago's Comiskey Park, on one of wrestling's first true supercards. O'Connor dominated the match with an array of suplexes and slams (pictured), but Rogers battled back to capture the first of his eventual two World titles.

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